

Winnie Mandela faces charges

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Black Nationalist leader Winnie Mandela will appear in court on Tuesday after violating an order barring her from the Johannesburg area, South African police said Monday. She was arrested for the second time in eight days after a high speed car chase along a Johannesburg motorway as she headed for Soweto in defiance of the government order. Her lawyers told reporters she would be held at Krugersdorp police station, west of Johannesburg, overnight and would be charged under internal security laws with violating the order. They were applying for bail, they added. Her daughter Zindzi, who was with Mrs. Mandela when police forced her car to stop, told reporters: "The most important thing to remember is that (Soweto) is her home. She is banned under laws which she does not recognise."

'Gunmen's passports came from Libya'

TUNIS (R) — Tunisian passports reported to have been used by three gunmen who attacked Vienna airport on Friday had earlier been confiscated or lost in Libya, a senior Interior Ministry official said on Monday. Two of the three passports were confiscated from Tunisian migrant workers by Libyan authorities in August and September, the official said. Libya expelled more than 33,000 Tunisian migrant workers in August, provoking Tunis into breaking diplomatic relations, and the official said probably hundreds of passports were missing. The other passport belonged to a Tunisian who lost it in Libya eight years ago, he told a news conference at which the three original holders of the passports were present. The official denied any Tunisians were involved in the Vienna attack in which three people, including a gunman, died. He declined to comment on any link between Libya and the gunmen.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Arab Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة تأسست من المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية «الواي»

Deputy speaker meets Turkish official

AMMAN (Petra) — Lower House of Parliament Deputy Speaker Jamil Hijazi conferred with Turkish Parliament Speaker Najmeddin Caraman, who made a stopover at Queen Alia International Airport on his way home from Doha, on issues pertaining to parliamentary cooperation between the two countries. Mr. Caraman praised Jordanian-Turkish relations under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein and Turkish President Kenan Evren. The Turkish guest said that his country was doing its utmost to stop the Iran-Iraq war. Attending the meeting were deputies Abdul Baqi Jaumo, Mohammad Thweib, Dr. Mousa Abu Ghosh, and the parliament's secretary general, Hani Kheir, in addition to the Turkish ambassadors to Qatar and Jordan.

Greece, PLO to counter terrorism

ATHENS (AP) — Greece intends to cooperate with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) "to prevent, deter and combat terrorist activities in this country," Public Order Minister Athanassios Tsougaris announced Monday. Mr. Tsougaris said Greek reporters the government had invited Hajj Abdul Hamid, a security adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, to Athens for "a exchange of views." He said cooperation by Greek authorities with the PLO leadership was intended to counter terrorist activity in Greece by Palestinian splinter groups.

2 SLA men killed, Israeli wounded

TEL AVIV (R) — Two pro-Israeli militiamen were killed and six people, including an Israeli soldier, were wounded on Monday by attacks in Israel's self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon, military sources said. The Israeli sources said the soldier was an adviser to the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA). He was wounded when an anti-tank missile hit an SLA vehicle, killing two militiamen and injuring a third, the sources said.

Pakistani cabinet formally resigns

ISLAMABAD (R) — The cabinet of Pakistani Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo resigned on Monday to enable him to choose a new team, Radio Pakistan reported. It said the ministers tendered their resignations at a cabinet meeting hours after President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq ended eight and half years of martial law (See page 9). But Mr. Junejo asked the ministers to continue in office until he named a new administration, the radio said.

Israel to continue Lavi project

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said on Monday that Israel would continue building a new generation warplane despite the drain of the six-year-old project on the country's inflation-plagued economy. In a speech to high school students Rabin said American taxpayers had contributed too much money to develop the Lavi fighter for Israel to consider halting the project.

King, Syrian president hold two rounds of summit talks

By our correspondents in Damascus and agency dispatches

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad held two rounds of talks on Monday immediately after the King began his first visit to Syria in six years.

The Syrian News Agency (SANA) said the King and President Assad discussed Middle East developments, joint Arab action and bilateral relations, but did not give any details. Jordanian officials quoted in dispatches from Damascus by international news agencies said the two leaders agreed to exchange ambassadors. Jordan and Syria withdrew their ambassadors after relations were strained in 1980. Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and members of the high-level delegation accompanying the King also held talks with a Syrian team headed by Mr. Rifai's counterpart, Dr. Abdul Raouf Al Kasbi. The talks covered the latest developments in the Middle East and steps taken to strengthen and expand Jordanian-Syrian cooperation in various fields, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said. On the Jordanian side the talks were attended by Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasbi, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh and Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri while Syria was represented by Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs Saleem Yassin, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Issam Al Naeb and Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Abdul Munem Al Hamawi. Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Shara'a was in Beirut on Monday to deliver a message from Mr. Assad to Lebanese President Amin Gemayel. Attending the King's meeting with Mr. Assad were Prime Minister Rifai, Mr. Qasbi, Mr. Abu Odeh, Mr. Masri, Dr. Kasbi, Syria's Interior Minister Mohammad Ghabash, Minister of Presidential Affairs Walid Fadel and Mr. Naeb. Jordanian officials said the focus of the Damascus talks was means to boost cooperation between the two countries in the fields of trade and economy and joint projects. A 21-gun salute boomed as the King arrived at Damascus airport on Monday and a grand welcoming ceremony followed. It was headed by President Assad and attended by senior Syrian leaders. The King and President Assad warmly embraced each other and inspected a guard of honour mounted to mark the occasion of the royal visit. Syrian and Jordanian flags fluttered over almost every lamppost in Damascus and President Assad escorted the King in a motorcade to the presidential palace through decorated streets. President Assad was to host a dinner in honour of the King Monday night and both leaders were expected to deliver dinner speeches. On Tuesday, the King and the president were to head the Jordanian and Syrian delegations to official talks. The two leaders may also hold a round of private talks Tuesday morning before being joined by the delegations. A joint communiqué was expected to be issued in Amman and Damascus later in the day before the King returns home. Jordanian officials told the Jordan Times the King may also hold a press conference before leaving Damascus. Mr. Shara'a said in an interview published on Monday that he hoped that the Jordanian-Syrian summit would come up with a plan for joint Arab action. The Kuwaiti daily Al Qabas also quoted Mr. Shara'a as expressing hope that the King's talks with President Assad would help Jordan and Syria achieve greater understanding, especially in regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict and ways of confronting the Israeli challenge through joint Arab action. The King's visit to Damascus follows a series of high-level Syrian-Jordanian meetings attended by Mr. Rifai and Dr. Kasbi. The two prime ministers met in Jeddah and Riyadh under the auspices of an Arab League mediation committee headed by Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah Ibn Abdul Aziz and later exchanged visits. These meetings produced joint statements reaffirming both countries' commitment to the proposal for an international conference on the Middle East to work out a settlement to the Palestinian problem and rejection of all unilateral and partial solutions to the Arab-Israeli conflict. The two countries also ruled out direct talks with Israel. The focus of the Damascus



His Majesty King Hussein is greeted by Syrian President Hafez Al Assad upon his arrival in Damascus on Monday (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

Austria says gunmen planned to take hostages and hijack plane

Vienna and Rome airport assailants admit they belong to Abu Nidal group

VIENNA (Agencies) — Gunmen planned to follow up their attack at Vienna airport on Friday by seizing Israeli hostages and forcing a waiting El Al plane to take them out of the country, Interior Minister Karl Blecha said Monday. "This was no suicide commando mission," Mr. Blecha said of the attack in which three people, including a gunman, were killed and about 40 injured. "Their goal was to take hostages." He said the intention to take hostages explained why the gunmen had no escape plans. Mr. Blecha told reporters the two surviving gunmen said they were members of the Abu Nidal Palestinian group Al Fatah (revolutionary command) Al Assifa (the storm). Abu Nidal broke in 1974 with the Fatah group of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, which also has an Al Assifa fighting branch. He said they had travelled from Beirut about Dec. 20, changing planes at Athens and eventually arriving separately in Vienna by train from Geneva and Budapest. Italian police believe the Rome and Vienna attacks were planned in Beirut and organised in Switzerland, the Italian news agency ANSA reported Monday. ANSA quoted unidentified police sources as saying the suicide squads were sent from Lebanon to avenge the Israeli air raid against the PLO headquarters in Tunisia. More than 70 people died in that October attack. Police said the conclusion was based on interrogations of the lone surviving gunman involved in the Rome attack, Mohammad Sarham, and on other investigations. An Italian magistrate questioned Sarham on Monday in a bid to discover whether a weapons supply base existed in Italy, police sources told Reuters. Assault rifles and hand grenades used in the attack could link the incident to previous guerrilla violence in Italy, the sources said. Italian Television said Sarham had asked police about the outcome of the Vienna raid. Sarham, recovering from bullet wounds in a Rome military hospital, has told investigating magistrate Domenico Sica he belonged to a group linked to Abu Nidal, the police sources said. His three accomplices were shot dead by police and Israeli guards. (Continued on page 3)

Syria reportedly scrambles jets as Israeli planes fly over Lebanon

BEIRUT (AP) — Syria was reported Monday to have scrambled its jet fighters over north Lebanon as Israeli warplanes staged mock attacks over the central Lebanese mountains and then crashed the sound barrier over Beirut. The Voice of Lebanon, radio station said six Israeli jets carried out mock bombing runs over the central Lebanese towns of Sofar and Bhamdoun on the main Beirut-Damascus road shortly before midday. The station said the jets released scarlet balloons in the non-bombing runs, apparently to deflect heat-seeking ground-to-air missiles that might be fired from the nearby Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley in east Lebanon. There was no independent confirmation of the report. The Lebanese command declined to comment and there was no reaction available from Syria or Israel. Syria scrambled several formations of MIG fighter jets over northern Lebanon as the Israeli planes staged their central Lebanese passes, but there was no encounter between the two sides, the radio said. Tension has been running high between the two countries since Israel claimed its American-made F-15 Eagle fighters shot down two Syrian MIG-23 jets in a dogfight over the Lebanese-Syrian border Nov. 19. Israel has since charged that Syria deployed high-altitude SA-2 missiles along its border with Lebanon and then moved low-altitude SA-6 and SA-8 missile batteries back to the Bekaa. Voice of Lebanon did not say whether any missiles were fired at the Israeli planes on Monday. It said the jets veered off westward and repeatedly crashed the sound barrier over Beirut as Syrian jets maintained air patrols some 80 kilometres northward. Beirut was rattled by many sonic booms as the planes streaked through the clear Mediterranean sky, leaving long contrails over the Lebanese capital. Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir accused Syria on Monday of sparking the missile crisis with Israel to prepare for a military confrontation. Syria is "using these tools (the missiles) to sharpen the tension with Israel and perhaps to prepare the next steps for military confrontation with Israel, which it openly declares it is preparing," Shamir, leader of the right-wing Likud bloc, said in remarks broadcast on Israel Radio. Israel claims the missiles are restricting its "surveillance" flights over eastern Lebanon. Prime Minister Shimon Peres, speaking to a political gathering on Sunday, said Israel was "not interested in cultivating tension or escalation (with Syria) and I think that the correct way to reduce it is to return to the status quo." Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin also addressed the issue on American Television Sunday night. He said the missile deployment "reduces our abilities to attack groups in the Lebanese valley. No doubt this change in Syrian deployment serves as the source that might bring an escalation."

Rabin: Israel will hit airport attackers

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said on Monday Israel would strike at those responsible for the guerrilla attacks at Rome and Vienna airports. In an interview here with CBS Television of the United States, Rabin refused to discuss speculation that Libya might be a target. "We of course have to find out who are the bodies behind these attacks and how they can be found. Then we will act," Rabin said. He said information from Austrian and Italian authorities indicated the radical Palestinian group of Abu Nidal carried out the attacks, which left 18 people dead and about 110 wounded. Israeli experts say Libya has provided weapons and other aid to Abu Nidal. They have suggested Israel might launch a long-range air raid similar to October's bombing of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) headquarters in Tunis. Asked if Libya was a target, Rabin replied: "I wouldn't say a word (what) we'll do or not do vis-a-vis any Arab country which is hosting terrorists." Prime Minister Shimon Peres has described Libya as the international centre of terrorism and called its leader, Muammar Qadhafi, "one of the most awful phenomena of our time." Addressing a Jerusalem audience, Peres said on Sunday Israel was "seriously and sincerely trying to reach a peace dialogue with Jordan and negotiations to solve the Palestinian problem." But he warned that Israel was "determined not to forgive, not to surrender or ignore an organisation called the PLO as long as the PLO deals in terror." Peres also singled out Libya, Syria and Lebanon as countries that are "centres of terror." In reaction to a letter from U.S. President Ronald Reagan, Peres also voiced satisfaction that Mr. Reagan was "determined to most clearly confront" terrorism, and said the United States would find in Israel "a faithful partner" in this endeavour. Peres on Monday briefed parliament's foreign affairs and security committee. (Continued on page 3)

Israeli shot in Hebron

HEBRON, Occupied West Bank (Agencies) — A 60-year-old Israeli man was shot and wounded by an unidentified attacker in the Israeli-occupied West Bank town of Hebron on Monday, an Israeli army spokesman said. It was the first attack in many weeks against Israelis in Hebron. Military sources, declining to be named, quoted eyewitnesses as saying that the assailant was a woman. The Palestine Press Service, which monitors events in the West Bank, also reported that the Israeli was probably attacked by a woman. Israeli soldiers sealed off the old town of Hebron, a city of 50,000 some 40 kilometres south of Jerusalem, and searched the area. No arrests have been made so far, a spokesman said. At least 17 Israelis have been killed in attacks in and around the West Bank over the past 15 months, and the Israeli authorities launched a crackdown in August designed to curb the spiral of anti-occupation violence. The crackdown measures include expulsions, detentions without trial and the bulldozing of homes. In a separate West Bank incident on Monday, Israeli officials said the army had demolished three homes in Faywar refugee camp, near Hebron, and sealed up a fourth house.

Assad invites Gemayel to seal militia accord

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Presidents Amin Gemayel of Lebanon and Hafez Al Assad of Syria will meet in Damascus on Tuesday to seal a militia pact to end Lebanon's civil war, Syrian official said on Monday. Political sources said the meeting would be the first major step in a Syrian drive to obtain backing for the agreement from Lebanon's Christian political establishment. Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Shara'a, emerging from talks here with Mr. Gemayel, told reporters the summit would "ensure national accord on security in Lebanon." As sonic booms from overflying Israeli warplanes shook Beirut, Mr. Shara'a said he had conveyed a message from Mr. Assad as "part of a continuous exchange of views." The agreement, signed last Saturday by three main militia chiefs, reduces the power of the Christian-held presidency and gives Muslims more say in government. Mr. Gemayel took no part in talks that produced the accord and politicians loyal to him contest the right of mostly rightist Christian militia "Lebanese Forces" chief Elie Hobeika to speak for Christians. The three main militias agreed on Monday to call a nationwide ceasefire and form a national coalition cabinet within one week to enforce the Syrian-sponsored

Arafat said to be planning tour of 5 Arab countries

CAIRO (AP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat is planning a tour of Arab countries within the next two weeks for talks on stalled Middle East peace efforts, Cairo-based PLO sources said Monday. The sources, who refused to be identified, said the tour will include Jordan, Egypt, Iraq, Algeria and North Yemen. U.S.-sponsored Arab-Israeli peace efforts have been stalemated on several issues, including Washington's insistence that the PLO accept U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 implicitly recognising Israel's right to exist in secure boundaries and calling for peace negotiations. After a week-long visit by Mr. Arafat to Egypt in early November, Mr. Mubarak told reporters he was awaiting a decision from the PLO's Baghdad meeting on acceptance of 242. In interviews with a U.S. television network and a French newspaper this month, he appeared irritated by the PLO failure to do so. He told NBC that Mr. Arafat had one or two months to accept the U.N. resolutions or become a "big, fat loser." In an interview with the Paris newspaper Le Monde, Mr. Mubarak set a target date of Jan. 27 for PLO acceptance without explaining the date's significance. The PLO sources in Cairo said Mr. Mubarak had an unpublished meeting on Sunday with Hani Al Hassan, Mr. Arafat's political adviser currently visiting Egypt, and Saeed Kamal, a Cairo-based close aide to the PLO leader. They said the meeting focused on "how to break the political stalemate" in the peace process.

Aziz in Riyadh; Nuaimi leaves Iran

RIYADH (AP) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia received on Monday a message from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, as the Arab Gulf countries pressed ahead with mediation bids for an end to the five-year-old Iran-Iraq war. The Saudi Press Agency said President Hussein's message was delivered to the Saudi monarch by Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz who arrived unexpectedly in the Saudi capital earlier in the day. Arab diplomatic sources said the message dealt with developments of the Gulf war and a number of current Arab and international issues. They declined further elaboration. Mr. Aziz arrived in the Saudi capital as United Arab Emirates Minister of State Rashid Abdullah Al Nuaimi concluded two days of talks in Tehran where he was pursuing concerted efforts by the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) powers to bring their warring neighbours to the negotiating table. Mr. Nuaimi was quoted by the UAE official news agency WAM as saying upon his return home that he delivered a message from UAE President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan to Iranian President Ali Khamenei and that he discussed with the Tehran leaders "means of easing tension in the region, relations between the two countries and cooperation among Islamic nations." "We agreed on the continuation of contacts and consultations with the aim of reaching solutions to the problems of the region, and we also reviewed issues of mutual concern," Mr. Nuaimi added. The six-nation GCC includes Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman. Leaders of the alliance agreed at their last summit conference in Muscat in November to reactivate individual and collective efforts with (Continued on page 3)

TASS dismisses reports of 'Soviet-Israeli deal'

MOSCOW (R) — The official Soviet news agency TASS on Monday dismissed as lies reports in the West of an imminent Soviet-Israeli deal involving the emigration of Jews. In a brief statement, TASS referred to "ill-intentioned rumours in recent days... to the effect that the Soviet Union and the government of Israel have allegedly reached an agreement of sorts on 'large-scale emigration' from the USSR to Israel." "It goes without saying that these fabrications are totally groundless," it added. The TASS denial was the first direct Soviet comment on widespread and unconfirmed reports of a Soviet-Israeli deal circulating among Western and Middle East diplomats. According to these, Moscow would drastically ease restrictions on Jewish emigration in return for Israeli agreement to a Soviet role in Middle East peace talks and the restoration of diplomatic relations, broken off in 1967. The agency was apparently referring to a report from the U.S. Simon Wiesenthal Centre last week which quoted a Soviet diplomat in Washington as saying he believed Moscow would restore relations in February and open up emigration. TASS said the authors of the "concoctions" were clearly out to discredit Moscow's policy aimed at bringing about peace in the Middle East while taking into account all people in the region. U.S. officials said they had no confirmation of the reported information from the Soviet diplomat, a first secretary. Earlier on Monday the official Novosti news agency said relations could re-open in 1986, but Israel would have to accept an independent Palestinian state under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and withdraw from territory occupied since 1967.

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Moscow ready for ties if Israel changes policy towards Palestinians

MOSCOW (R) — A Soviet commentator said Monday Moscow could reopen diplomatic ties with Israel in 1986 but Israel would first have to change its policies towards the Palestinians and the Arab states.

"I am sure that the Soviet Union is ready to restore diplomatic relations with Israel and I think this could happen even in 1986," Eduard Ryabov, an analyst for the Novosti News Agency said.

According to widespread but unconfirmed reports among diplomats over the past few months, Moscow is moving to restore relations with Israel as part of a deal that could involve Jewish emigration and a Soviet voice in Middle East peace talks.

Moscow and most of its allies broke off ties with Israel after the 1967 Middle East war. The Novosti comment said Moscow had

not changed its position since 1967.

"The Soviet Union believes that for the restoration of relations, Israel should discontinue the occupation of all Arab lands seized since 1967 and give the Palestinian people an opportunity to implement their right to self-determination."

It said this meant allowing an independent state under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The commentary attacked efforts to negotiate a settlement involving a Jordanian-Palestinian team and repeated a call for a conference involving all parties to the

conflict.

The Soviet Union, largely sidelined from Middle East diplomacy in recent years, has been campaigning for such a conference for over a decade and new leader Mikhail Gorbachev has intensified the drive.

"Moscow proceeds from the premise that the sooner the situation in the Middle East is normalised, the sooner it will be possible to discuss the restoration of relations with Israel," Novosti said.

The commentary indicated no shift in the Soviet terms for ties with Israel, but its direct comment underlined current Soviet preoccupation with the issue of restoring ties.

Novosti distributes, to the foreign media, comment and feature material reflecting official Soviet policy.

Mitterrand ends visit to Egypt

CAIRO (R) — President Francois Mitterrand of France left Cairo Monday at the end of a private visit during which he met President Hosni Mubarak for Middle East peace talks.

Mr. Mitterrand toured the Egyptian museum in central Cairo before going to the airport, where he was seen off by Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Maguid.

The French leader spent his Christmas holiday touring the winter resort towns of Luxor and Aswan, sites of 5,000-year-old Pharaonic temples.

Mr. Mitterrand and Mr. Mubarak met, for the 12th time since 1981, at a 90-minute working dinner. Mr. Mitterrand would not comment on the discussion.

France's ambassador to Egypt told reporters the two leaders had discussed how their countries could work together towards peace in the Middle East.

Mr. Mitterrand was accompanied by French Justice Minister Robert Badinter

PLO on alert for possible Israeli attack

ABU DHABI, UAE (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was reported Monday to have put its commandos on "maximum alert" in anticipation of Israeli assassination raids against Palestinian leaders in Tunisia in retaliation for last week's airport attacks in Vienna and Rome where 18 people were killed and 121 injured.

The PLO representative in Saudi Arabia, Rafik Al Natsbeh, was meanwhile quoted as saying that the organisation expected attacks on Palestinian bases in the Arab countries to which they moved after the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

North Yemen and South Yemen, where thousands of PLO commandos settled after leaving Lebanon, were reported last week to be coordinating military defences to confront an expected attack by Israel.

Abu Dhabi's Arab-language newspaper Al Itihad quoted unidentified Arab diplomatic sources as saying the PLO was on "maximum alert after receiving information from certain Western circles about preparations for a second attack by Israel on the PLO Tunis headquarters."

The Israelis last hit the PLO in the North African country on Oct. 1, when more than 75 persons were killed.

The paper said that the "information indicates that Israel might resort to commando squads to assassinate a number of the resistance leaders in Tunis, in an operation to that of Firdan" in Beirut in 1973. Three Palestinian leaders were then assassinated in the Lebanese capital by Israeli raiders.

Al Itihad said air-tight security measures have been taken to protect Palestinian leaders in Tunis. Citing PLO sources, the paper said Israel was also expected to deal a blow to Palestinian commandos in the eastern Lebanese Bekaa Valley, with a view to "diverting attention away from the expected Tunis attack."

Mr. Natsbeh told the same paper that the PLO had information that Israel was preparing to attack Palestinian commando forces in "several Arab countries."

Since the airport attacks on Dec. 27, the Gulf media has been contending that the instigators or perpetrators were either unidentified operatives bent on discrediting Mr. Yasser Arafat's PLO, or Israeli "agents" helping create a pretext for Israel to launch an attack on the Arabs and the PLO, or to defame the PLO.

"There is not a shred of doubt throughout the international community that the PLO was and remains above any suspicion... Hiredlings or misled elements are exploited in these terrorist attacks," the Saudi Arabian newspaper Al Jazira wrote. "Israel, by blaming the PLO, seeks to create the pretexts to deceive the world when it carries out the expected aggression against the organisation."

West Bankers condemn attack

Meanwhile West Bank community leaders and commentators said Monday a majority of West Bank Palestinians have condemned the attacks at Rome and Vienna airports and expressed concern that they had damaged the Palestinian cause.

Mayors, journalists and other residents in the Israeli-occupied territory told Reuters only a tiny faction supported the attacks on Friday, now generally linked to Palestinian radical Abu Nidal.

Some denounced all terrorist activity as criminal but others condemned the airport attacks.

Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij said the attacks were "crimes against innocent people as well as against the name and prestige of the Palestinians."

"Such actions are the work of criminals and the overwhelming majority of West Bankers reject them. I only hope foreign governments will not prejudice the Palestinian people because of the acts of a small band of criminals," he said.

Outright condemnation was expressed by figures identified with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, including Hanna Siniara, editor-in-chief of the East Jerusalem daily newspaper Al Fajr. "I believe the two crimes committed by misled hands are meant

to harm the expectations of the Palestinian people," wrote Mr. Siniara.

Mr. Siniara added that he shared the grief of the victims' families.

Many West Bank residents condemn commando activities in which foreigners are affected, they said, but are less opposed to operations in which the only victims are Israelis.

Mamoud Ali Al Khatib, editor-in-chief of the radical daily Al Mithaq, said Abu Nidal's actions were suspect because they always "gave Israel an excuse to hit at Palestinians." His newspaper reflects the views of a breakaway, pro-Syrian PLO faction.

Samir Adoubi, U.S.-educated news editor of the English language edition of Al Fajr, said "gu" support for the attacks could be found among the poorer echelons of West Bank society.

"The extremist positions are among the poorest because it gives them a chance to express their frustrations. But ideologically, rationally, three can hardly be anyone on the West Bank who supports Abu Nidal," Mr. Adoubi said.

'Abu Nidal hard to hit'

Israeli military analysts say the Libyan-backed Palestinian commando group headed by Abu Nidal, which claimed responsibility for the airport attacks in Rome and Vienna, is a difficult target for retaliation.

"A massive military response against the Abu Nidal organisation," wrote Sunday military analyst Ze'ev Schiff in the daily Haaretz, "is extremely difficult because this small organisation does not maintain any large bases or populated headquarters like most of the other Palestinian organisations."

"Its members and facilities are greatly spread out," mostly in Lebanon and Libya, Schiff added.

Israeli fighter jets forays into eastern Lebanon may now be curtailed by the renewed presence of Syrian surface-to-air missiles in the Bekaa Valley, which Israel contends, impair its intelligence gathering capabilities against Palestinian commandos there.

The United States has urged Israel not to be hasty in launching a retaliation attack.

The Israeli government was alerted on the attacks Sunday by Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, and Israel's airforce chief ordered the cabinet briefing holding stage.

Rabin later told an American Jewish group that "Israel will feel free to decide when and where and by what means" to attack the terrorists.

The surviving Rome gunman, Mohammad Sarhan, told an Italian investigating judge that he and the three gunmen slain in the attack belonged to the Abu Nidal group which planned more attacks in Europe, judicial sources said. The two surviving terrorist suspects in Vienna also said they were associated with Abu Nidal.

Israel's national television station reported that Abu Nidal, 49, was ailing and hiding out in Libya. It aired interviews with two unidentified men said to be members of Abu Nidal's group captured in Israel.

Israeli military sources said Israel would not necessarily have to act with aerial bombings. "There are various means. I don't want to go into the details, but there is a way to reach those responsible. Those who conducted the operation will not go unscathed," said one source, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres also said Israel was determined "not to forgive, not to surrender or ignore the organisation called PLO."

But the premier, addressing an Israeli audience, added that Israel was seriously committed to seeking peace dialogue with Jordan and the Palestinians.

Sources in Peres' office who spoke on condition of anonymity said Peres was under pressure from hardliners in his coalition government to strike back but was being cautious because he was concerned about disrupting Middle East peace efforts.

Peres aides also indicated that despite the blunt public warnings about retaliation, Israel would not take any steps until it was sure which Palestinian commando faction was responsible for the killings.

Lebanon peace pact faces formidable barriers

By Farouk Nassar
Associated Press

BEIRUT — The armistice that Lebanon's warlords have signed under Syria's sponsorship faces formidable barriers before it gets off the ground.

But Falangist and opposition analysts say it might work, mainly because it provides the only available mechanism at present to end Lebanon's 10-year bloodbath.

Foremost among the barriers is Israel, which controls a border enclave in South Lebanon and supports a mainly Falangist militia there opposed to any Syrian-sponsored peace moves.

"The South remains the open gate for rekindling the civil war or regional war on Lebanese soil," warned Michel Abu Jaoudah, leading columnist of Lebanon's prestigious newspaper An Nahar.

"None of the signatories can afford to ignore Israel's role and the damage the new agreement inflicts on the Jewish state," Abu Jaoudah wrote. "Israel is the major challenge."

Israel is currently locked in a so-called missile confrontation with Syria, claiming Moscow's main Middle East ally has moved SAM-6 and SAM-8 missile batteries back to east Lebanon's Bekaa Valley.

It was the first anti-aircraft missile redeployment in the Bekaa since Israel's air force destroyed during the early days of the 1982 invasion a network of Soviet-supplied batteries Syria had then installed in the region.

"I think the ingredients of a new collision are there," said a non-partisan, Muslim Lebanese politician, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "Israel cannot afford to see Syria's influence tremendously boosted in Lebanon."

Syria maintains 25,000 troops in northern and eastern Lebanon under a 1976 Arab League mandate to end the decade-old civil war that has claimed more than 100,000 lives and wrecked the

nation's once prosperous economy.

The new accord was signed in Damascus Saturday by Lebanon's three most powerful militias. Druze warlord Walid Junblatt signed for the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), Justice Minister Nabih Berri for the Shi'ite Muslim Amal Movement and Elie Hobeika for the Lebanese Forces Falangist militia.

The accord provides for disbanding and disarming Lebanon's warring militias in one year and empowers the Lebanese government to seek Syrian military help to quell any defiance.

That means the Syrian army, which left Beirut along with Yasser Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) during the Israeli invasion, might return to the Lebanese capital.

Another barrier facing the pact is the opposition it has already incurred among right-wing Falangist traditionalists and Muslim extremists loyal to Iran.

Falangist opponents included President Amin Gemayel's Falange Party, ex-president Camille Chamoun, the nation's most prestigious elder statesman and ex-president Suleiman Franjeh, whose "giant" militia controls the northern flank of the Christian heartland.

Mr. Hobeika's own military Chief of Staff Samir Geagea, also has come out against the accord along with Father Boulos Nehm, head of the powerful order of Maronite monks. Both Geagea and Nehm sympathise with Israel.

The Falangist opponents belong to the Maronite Catholic community, the largest Christian sect that has dominated the government, parliament, army and judiciary since Lebanon's 1943 independence from France.

All Falangist opponents, however, were careful to pinpoint that they did not object to the termination of the civil war, but opposed political concessions Fal-

angists are required to give away to the opposition under the new accord.

They said they would take up the issue once the pact, which envisages a transitional process to introduce a system of equal power sharing, comes up for debate before the current parliament.

Parliament's approval is necessary to enforce the new accord unless President Gemayel or Prime Minister Rashid Karami's government endorse it.

Mr. Gemayel has made no public statement personally against the agreement. But he privately complains that he has not been consulted during the three months of negotiations that brought about the pact.

Mr. Karami's nine-man cabinet

is plagued by sectarian feuds and has not been able to meet for eight months.

Pro-Iranian militants have declared they will not be bound by the accord, saying they want the establishment of an Islamic Republic similar to that of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in Iran.

The pact's strongest asset is that it is the first to be signed by militia chieftains who control the guns. Scores of previous peace agreements collapsed mainly because they were concluded by military powerless politicians.

The pact's supporters say Syria's military might and the promise of a renewed petrodollar influx from Arab nations if peace is achieved will help see the new initiative through.

Assad invites Gemayel to seal pact

(Continued from page 1)

fronts were calm on Monday even though the official deadline for the ceasefire has been set for Tuesday. Mr. Hobeika said Monday night no-one could hinder implementation of the accord "because the peace pact is between the militias actually in control of the fighters."

Political sources told Reuters Mr. Gemayel's backing will be vital to the success of the pact. In Damascus, Syrian officials prepared to free a batch of rightist militiamen captured in the civil war, a radio in Beirut reported.

The sources said the move would help Mr. Hobeika head of opposition to the accord from hardliners in his "Lebanese Forces" militia who have had links with Israel in the past.

Many Lebanese leaders fear Israel may try to sabotage peace to keep Lebanon unstable and weaken Syria's strategic position.

"There is some opposition to the pact here, but the question now is whether it will organise, whether Israel will activate it," said a political source in east Beirut.

Under the pact, Syrian troops are to deploy in unspecified areas of Lebanon to keep order, and all parties are committed to join guerrilla resistance to Israeli troops occupying a border strip in the south.

Syria already has an estimated 25,000 troops in east and north Lebanon.

The source in east Beirut noted the locations where Syrian troops would deploy was kept vague in the accord. "This means Syrians might in theory be deployed in east Beirut and the south and (in that event) an Israeli reaction would be just a matter of time."

"Israel or Syria could wreck peace in Lebanon, but only together can Israel and Syria build it," the source said.

PLO, Soviet officials meet in Kuwait

KUWAIT (AP) — A ranking Palestinian commando official met here Sunday with the deputy director of the Middle East Department of the Soviet Communist Party's Central Committee and denounced the terrorist attacks on the Rome and Vienna airports as an attempt to tarnish the Arab image.

Salah Khalaf, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's right-hand man, told reporters that his meeting with Karin Brutins dealt largely with the latest developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

In an apparent allusion to the attack Friday at the Rome and Vienna airports, Mr. Khalaf said he complained to Mr. Brutins about "attempts to tarnish the image of the Palestinians and the Arabs through acts of terrorism."

Sudanese tribesmen demonstrate in Khartoum

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP) — Riot police used tear gas and clubs to disperse hundreds of stone-throwing Nuba tribesmen who marched through the city Monday, demanding release of their detained leader.

It was the second such demonstration within less than two months.

Witnesses said the demonstrators broke windshields of several parked cars with stones along a main street where several government ministries are located.

When the protesters reached the city centre, riot police charged with tear gas. The crowd scattered into small groups that police chased with clubs, witnesses said.

There were no reports of casualties, if any.

The witnesses said police made an undetermined number of arrests.

Business activity came to a standstill in the city centre as shopkeepers hurriedly closed down in

fear of possible looting.

The protesters belonged to the Nuba tribe which inhabits a mountainous area in the south western region of Kordofan. Nuban leader Philip Abbas Ghaboush, a veteran politician and former priest, was arrested last September in connection with what the government called a failed coup attempt.

Last month, Nuban tribesmen in the capital staged a similar demonstration which police broke up with tear gas. Three policemen and four civilians were injured then.

Sudan's military-led government has announced a timetable for next April's general elections in another move to prove its intention to hand power to civilians one year after the military coup that overthrew President Jastar Numeiri.

The ruling Transitional Military Council (TMC) and the mainly civilian cabinet said in a joint statement Sunday that elections will be held between April 1-12, and

that results would be announced between April 13-16.

These will be the first general elections since April 1968. The electorate will vote for a 300-member constituent assembly whose first task will be to draw up a new constitution.

In 1969, Numeiri — then an army officer — seized power in a coup. He was deposed last April 6 in a coup led by his Defence Minister and Commander-in-Chief Gen. Abdul Rahman Swarredhab.

Gen. Swarredhab, now head of the ruling TMC, promised last April to turn over power to civilians in one year, but influential trade unions and political parties, which played an important role in the anti-Numeiri upheaval, had expressed some scepticism about the military's intentions.

According to the timetable announced Sunday, registration of eligible voters, men and women over 18, will be between Jan. 18-23.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

MAIN CHANNEL

17:00 — Karam
17:30 — Cartoons
17:45 — Children Programme
18:00 — The Evening Hour
18:30 — News
19:00 — News
19:30 — News
20:00 — News
20:30 — News
21:00 — News
21:30 — News
22:00 — News
22:30 — News
23:00 — News
23:30 — News

FOREIGN CHANNEL

17:00 — 60 minutes on 80 hours
17:30 — News in French
18:00 — News in French
18:30 — News in French
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BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1413 KHz

06:00 News
06:30 News
07:00 News
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RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & partly on 95.60 KHz, SW 774111-19

07:00 — Light Music
07:30 — News
08:00 — Morning Show
08:30 — News
09:00 — News
09:30 — News
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WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* A painting exhibition by Khalid Kheir at the Spanish Cultural Centre (until Jan. 9).

* An exhibition of paintings by Princess Wajda Ali at the Petra Bank Gallery (until Dec. 31).

* An exhibition of handicrafts at the Social Development Centre in Hay Nazzi (until Jan. 7).

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267

American Centre Tel. 643771

British Council Tel. 641520

French Cultural Centre Tel. 637009

German Cultural Centre Tel. 641993

Italian Cultural Centre Tel. 642023

Japanese Cultural Centre Tel. 624049

Spanish Cultural Centre Tel. 639777

Swedish Cultural Centre Tel. 641525

Y.W.C.A. Tel. 641793

Y.W.M.C.A. Tel. 664251

Amman Municipal Library Tel. 637111

University of Jordan Library Tel. 843555

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre. Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays: 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.

Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Jordanian artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th century orientalist artists. Main building, Jabal Al-Lawzeh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630128.

Martyr's Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, Tel. 624590.

St. George Church (Greek Orthodox) Jabal Amman, Tel. 615410.

St. Raphael Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, 771751.

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Santa Claus and the blue-nosed reindeer travel to the Holy Land

By Rami G. Khouri

It was the night before Christmas, and Santa Claus had just arrived at the border with his sleigh full of gifts for the children. He parked his sleigh outside the frontier control post, and went inside to complete the formalities to enter the country, where he would make his rounds of the homes of all the good boys and girls.

"Ahlan wa sahlan," said the policeman behind the glass window. "How long do you plan to spend in our country?"

"About three or four hours," Santa replied, "because I have to go to the homes of all the other children of the world tonight to deliver their presents."

"Do you have a visa to enter our country?"

"I'm afraid not," Santa replied, "but for the last two hundred years I've travelled the world without a visa."

"I'm afraid you cannot enter," the immigration officer said. "But I have all these presents that my helpers and I have worked all year to make for the children."

Santa was told to go inside and see the officer on duty. He went into the back room and made his case. The commanding officer was most understanding and pleasant, as is the norm in this part of the world.

"Because this is a special case, we will allow you to enter on a 48-hour transit visa, Mr. Claus," the officer said.

"Thank you," Santa replied, "I'll just go outside and tell Rudolph and the other reindeer to prepare to depart. We have so many gifts in the sleigh this year."

The officer accompanied Santa to the door, but seeing the huge

sleigh full of packages, he added quickly, "Oh, I'm sorry, you can enter, but the sleigh and those packages have to stay here on the border."

But these are the gifts for the children," Santa pleaded.

"Do you have an import license for all those packages?"

"I'm afraid not," Santa replied.

"Well, if you hurry, you can go to the Finance Ministry office tomorrow morning and get an import license, and then come back here to collect your sleigh and the gifts."

"But tomorrow will be too late," Santa complained, "because the children expect me to deliver their presents tonight."

The officer consulted his colleagues, and they agreed to allow Santa to enter with his gifts, given the charitable nature of his mission.

The customs officer went through the packages, and made notes on a piece of paper, finally asking: "How much are these goods worth?"

"Oh, gosh," Santa replied, "I don't really know. Perhaps a few hundred dollars. I never really calculated. I always tell the children that one should never try to place a material value on love and generosity. In any case, they are all gifts for the good boys and girls of your country."

"I'm afraid you will have to pay 17 per cent customs duty on the goods, and four per cent on the transport cost. How much did it cost you to ship these here?" the officer asked.

"About three bags of reindeer food," Santa replied.

The customs officer, true to the

character and heritage of his nation, realised the humane nature of Santa's mission, and did his best to help.

"Listen," he told Santa, "I can write that some of these toys are used, and others are your personal belongings, but there are too many to let you pass without paying any customs duty. Let's say the whole shipment is worth 45 dollars. You'll have to pay 12 dollars in customs tax only."

Santa was pleased. But he did not have any local currency, and asked where he might be able to change some of his North Pole banknotes.

The customs officer replied: "Go over there behind the bus, turn left at the shawarma shop, and ask for Abu Khaldoon. He'll change your money."

Santa went off looking for Abu Khaldoon, but could find him nowhere. The shawarma man told Santa that Abu Khaldoon had gone home for the night, and would return in the morning.

"But I have to change money now," Santa replied, "or it will be too late to deliver the presents to the good boys and girls."

The shawarma man shrugged his shoulders in a gesture of immense understanding, but could offer no advice. He gave Santa a free shawarma sandwich, and a cup of hot tea to go.

Santa returned to the customs officer, rather dejected. "Abu Khaldoon has gone home," Santa reported. "Where can I change money to pay the customs to be allowed to enter the country tonight?"

The customs man was visibly moved by Santa's dilemma. He made several phone calls, and a few minutes later said to Santa: "OK, because this is a special case,

and you arrived at the border so late at night, we will let you pass this time without paying customs on your packages. I'll say that you were bringing in personal belongings and a few commercial samples. God be with you, Santa."

As Santa reached the point where the vehicles are inspected, the officer asked him: "How old is this sleigh?"

"About two-hundred years old," Santa replied proudly.

"I'm sorry, it cannot enter the country. We do not permit any vehicles that were manufactured before 1979 to enter. You'll have to leave the sleigh here and collect it on your way out."

"How can I make my rounds tonight?" Santa asked.

"The morning bus arrives in six hours. You can try to find a seat on the bus. Otherwise, you can walk to the nearest town and get a taxi," the vehicle inspection officer suggested.

Santa was perplexed. He returned inside to plead with the commanding officer, whose good nature prevailed again to allow Santa special permission to enter with his sleigh to complete his mission, but only after Santa had signed a guarantee that he would take the sleigh out of the country with him when he left, or else pay a fine of two hundred dollars.

Just as he was being cleared through the vehicle control point, Santa was asked to have his passport checked by the officer in the small room to the side. Santa handed the man his passport.

The officer flipped through the pages and said: "You have travelled to many countries in the past few years. What was the purpose of all these trips?"

"I deliver presents to all the good boys and girls every year,"

Santa replied.

"Huhmmmm," the officer said under his voice, and made a quick telephone call to his superiors. Moments later, he asked Santa to wait a few minutes. Another man came into the room and asked Santa a few questions.

"How long have you had such a big beard?" the man asked.

"In the North Pole," Santa replied. "It's very cold, and everyone has a beard."

"Our weather is very warm and sunny," the man said, hinting to Santa that he might not need his beard next year. He went on: "What do you do besides deliver presents to the children?"

"I ask them questions about what they did during the past year, to see if they were good boys and girls. Sometimes I tell them stories to preach the Christmas message of love and peace among all people," Santa replied.

The man's head shot up. "You preach?" he asked.

"Well, sort of," Santa replied, "I carry around the world the message of love, charity, mercy and forgiveness."

"Can I see your permit to preach?" the man asked.

"I'm sorry, but I don't have a permit," Santa replied, slightly perplexed.

The man made a few more phone calls. Several minutes later, he said to Santa: "OK, this time we will let you enter without a preacher's permit, but please be sure that your preachings are sensible and moderate. We don't want to get the kids excited."

"Surely," Santa replied, "and thank you on behalf of the children."

Just as Santa was leaving the room, the man asked one more question: "Tell me, why do you

call Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer?"

"Golly," Santa explained, "I never thought about it. I suppose because his nose is so red."

"May I suggest," the man said, "that if anyone stops you while you're delivering your gifts and asks you the name of your head reindeer, tell them his name is Rudolph the ochre-nosed reindeer. We don't want our children singing songs with too many references to red things."

"Thank you," Santa said, and got up once again, thinking that he had completed his formalities and could now deliver his presents to all the good boys and girls. He arrived at the final checkpoint, where an officer asked to see his passport and the papers for his vehicle and packages.

"I'm sorry," the officer said, "I cannot let you pass. Your papers are not complete."

"What's wrong?" Santa asked, increasingly perplexed at why his annual mission of charity was so complicated this year.

"You don't have revenue stamps on the papers for your sleigh."

"Where can I get them?" Santa asked.

"Over there, from the man selling postcards," the officer replied.

Santa obligingly went back to the man selling postcards, bought his revenue stamps, applied them to the papers for his sleigh, and returned to the final checkpoint. He was finally allowed to pass, and with a little extra effort and speed from his reindeer, he made it in time to the homes of all the good little boys and girls. And a Merry Christmas was had by all in the Holy Land.

Unity is basic to peace

ISRAEL is unhappy over His Majesty King Hussein's visit to Damascus and over the prospects of Jordan and Syria working together again for the common good of the Arab Nation. Or so at least what headlines in Israeli newspapers suggest. But what else is it that Israel wants or expects from the Arabs, given its intransigence and adamant refusal to make the necessary concessions and compromises for peace?

It is probably difficult for the Israelis to answer this question, especially since their whole thinking is currently centred around the concept of maintaining the status quo in the area for as long as possible and at all costs. And to do this, Israel has adopted an obdurate policy whose main feature is that enigmatic, non-cooperative posturing against any concrete proposal designed to initiate a fruitful dialogue with all parties to the Middle East conflict.

Despite all the reasons in the world that should have urged the Zionist leaders in grabbing the historical opportunity to talk peace terms with the PLO — the single most important party with whom one day or another Israel will have to grapple if it ever wishes to find a solution to the Palestinian problem — they have been obdurately trying to push the PLO onto the sidelines.

Furthermore, the spate of Israeli violence on the occupied West Bank, the violation of international boundaries to bomb the PLO headquarters in Tunis and the shooting down of Syrian warplanes across the border indicate that the Israelis are not prepared to negotiate a peace settlement with the Arabs.

What option then do the Arabs have in such a situation except to meet the Israelis from the inevitable position of strength?

The Israeli intransigence serves to emphasise the necessity of tolerance and understanding among the Arab states in forging a united front, for, strength and the unity of purpose among the Arabs is the only language Israel will understand. So, adequate strength must be found to meet the Israeli challenge and effect a change in the present impasse. A solid measure of cohesion has, no doubt, been built up among the foremost group of confrontation states as a result of strenuous political and diplomatic efforts by Arab statesmen. This development is an eye-sore for Israel. Nothing more, perhaps, will ever perturb Israel than the prospect of an Arab power configuration confronting it, in the event of an ultimate Jordan-PLO-Egypt-Iraq-Syria axis taking shape once again in the Middle East.

Israel would do all it can to undermine the emergence of such a distinct possibility. The Nov. 19 Israeli shooting down of MIG-23s on Syrian airspace was one such subversive move. The violation of Syrian airspace was highly provocative and probably was intended to elicit a military confrontation with Syria, at least on a limited scale. However, the Syrian military posture along the Lebanese border and the Syrian determination to foil any Israeli attempt to sneak in cooled down the Israeli appetite for military adventurism.

The basic premise, on which peace and settlement of the Middle East conflict should be based, appears to be the combined strength of the Arab forces and resources. The sooner they join forces, the more apparent will be the readiness of the Israelis to negotiate a peaceful settlement.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Rai: A turning point

KING HUSSEIN visits Damascus on Monday for meetings with President Assad in a first meaningful step towards developing relations between the two countries. The visit is considered as a turning point for the better in inter-Arab relations. Jordan realises the dimension of threats and dangers being posed to the Arab Nation and does not differ with any other Arab state over the need for strengthening Arab ranks in confrontation with the enemy. Therefore, this meeting in Damascus is one that can achieve further solidarity for Arab ranks and pave the way for further meetings among other Arab leaders. This visit is welcomed not only by Jordanians and Syrians but by all Arab masses who are anxious to remove all despair from their hearts and plant hope for the future. This visit brings hope and joy to all Arabs because it puts an end to all differences between sister countries. It is indeed the first step in the road towards true Arab solidarity.

Al Dustour: Common cause is supreme

KING HUSSEIN'S visit to Damascus Monday crowns a long series of efforts to end differences between Jordan and Syria, and ushers in a new era of fruitful cooperation between the two countries in the economic and political fields.

The meeting of the two leaders in Damascus fulfils the aspirations of the people in the Arab World because Jordan and Syria form a basic element within the Arab Nation and a nucleus for solidarity and unity among Arab states. These two countries' position facing the common Israeli enemy enables them to play an essential role in bringing about solidarity among Arab states and rallying Arab states together in aborting Zionist designs and ambitions in the Arab region.

Sawt Al Shaab: An integrated front

THE SUMMIT meeting in Damascus between King Hussein and President Assad of Syria means more than a meeting between Arab leaders. It is a show of solidarity and a form of strength in the face of the common Israeli enemy. The visit marks the end of differences between Jordan and Syria, and is a manifestation of support by Jordan for Syria's national role and its drive to build Arab solidarity.

The visit ushers in a new era in close cooperation between the two sister countries, and a bolstering of ranks and stands in the face of the common danger. In the unity of Amman and Damascus there is a great power and a hope for the Arabs, not only because their interests are identical but because these two capitals form the axis in joint Arab action with regard to Israel. The Jordanian-Syrian role is strategic because they together form an integrated front, and both lend strength to the steadfastness of the Arab people everywhere.

'An international conference is only framework for just peace'

Mr. Zayyad is the Mayor of Nazareth and an Israeli-Arab member in the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality. The following is a speech he delivered during the conference of Non-Governmental Organisations on the question of Palestine held in Geneva Sept. 9-12, 1985.

By Tawfik Zayyad

THE LATEST American assault, which is being stepped up over recent months, is very far removed from being a peace initiative. Its real aim is to impose a liquidation of the Palestinian issue and of the rights of the Palestinian Arab people to national sovereignty.

It is being conducted on the basis of the official, declared American position (the Reagan plan), which is based on rejection of the principle of withdrawal to the 1967 borders, rejection of the right of the Palestinian Arab people to self-determination and rejection of recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organisation as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people.

At the least, (it is conducted with a view to) harnessing the PLO to the American position and depleting it of all Palestinian national, content, thereby widening the split in the Organisation and aggravating its international difficulties.

American timing is based on the difficulties facing the Palestinian people and the PLO as a result of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982.

The American (and Israeli) pre-condition for those Palestinians participating in the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation is that they should be "acceptable", in other words that they should, in practice, be appointed by the United States and be acceptable to the government of Israel. This implies a violation of the principle that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and opens a breach for the potential elimination of the legitimate leadership of the Palestinian Arab people recognised at the Palestinian, Arab and international levels.

Accordingly, what is going on is that the foundations are being laid for the implementation of the second phase of the Camp David design (the Reagan plan).

The Camp David agreements did not bring peace and did not resolve the Palestinian issue, which is the essence of the crisis, but were an invitation to a new war (that in Lebanon); a Camp David II would also be an invitation to future wars.

Reference must be made with particular gravity, to the fact that the United States and Israel are using the so-called "peace initiative" or "peace process" referred to in order to cover up a number of matters of extreme seriousness.

Cover-up of the continued Israeli occupation of parts of southern Lebanon, directly by Israeli forces and indirectly through the intermediary of the mercenary Antoine Lahad forces, and of the sabotage activity of Israeli lackeys inside Lebanon;

Cover-up of preparations for a new war against Syria in order to open the way for the complete subjugation of the Middle East; (Cover-up of the fact that Israel is involved in the schemes of the

United States that go beyond the Palestinian issue and beyond the Middle East region, (as can be seen from) the strategic cooperation agreement, Israeli readiness to take part in "Star Wars", nuclear-weapon production programmes, etc., in the belief that the United States will gain ascendancy internationally and in the Middle East.

There is no essential qualitative difference between the two major parties making up the Israeli government, the Ma'arakh and the Likud. The differences are tactical and matters of outward form. Complete agreement exists on the three Israeli nos: no withdrawal to the 1967 border; no right to self-determination and an independent state for the Palestinian Arab people; no recognition of the PLO. This makes Israel the only rejectionist state in the region.

The continued settlement activity, the stepping up of the "Iron Fist" policy and occupation-related oppression in the occupied territories are destructive not only for the Palestinian Arab people but for the Israeli people and its national interests.

The solution, a just, comprehensive and lasting peace, is possible only on the basis of withdrawal from all the areas occupied in 1967, the right of the Pal-

The entire discussion of the international conference (under the auspices of the United Nations with the participation of the Soviet Union, the United States, Israel, the PLO and the other states concerned) is a discussion of whether there is to be a just solution or an unjust solution. All those who reject the international conference reject a just solution and seek to impose the liquidation of the rights of the Palestinian people to national sovereignty and the exclusion of the Soviet Union and the PLO. All those who desire a just, comprehensive and lasting solution see the international conference as the framework for its achievement.

estian people to self-determination and recognition of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

This solution is based on the resolutions and covenants of the United Nations, which prohibit the acquisition of the territory of others by force of arms.

(There is a need for) a balance of power, both internationally and within the region, and for an objective outlook which does not permit the imposition of an unjust "settlement", as the experience of continued wars over 37 years (particularly that of the Lebanon war of 1982) has proved.

International experience (that of the Vietnamese, Cuban and Algerian questions and of dozens of other national liberation causes) demonstrates that it is not possible in our time to solve national issues by military might, but only on the basis of the principle of the right to self-determination.

The question of the international conference: The entire discussion of the international conference (under the auspices of the United Nations with the participation of the Soviet Union, the United States, Israel,

the PLO and the other states concerned) is a discussion of whether there is to be a just solution or an unjust solution. All those who reject the international conference reject a just solution and seek to impose the liquidation of the rights of the Palestinian people to national sovereignty and the exclusion of the Soviet Union and the PLO. All those who desire a just, comprehensive and lasting solution see the international conference as the framework for its achievement.

The international responsibility is a direct one. The conflict involved in the Palestinian issue cannot be removed from the general context of international relations. Conflagration and outbreaks of hostilities cannot always be contained within the Middle East. The Middle East (with a war every three to four years) may lead to an international eruption or one extending beyond the Middle East.

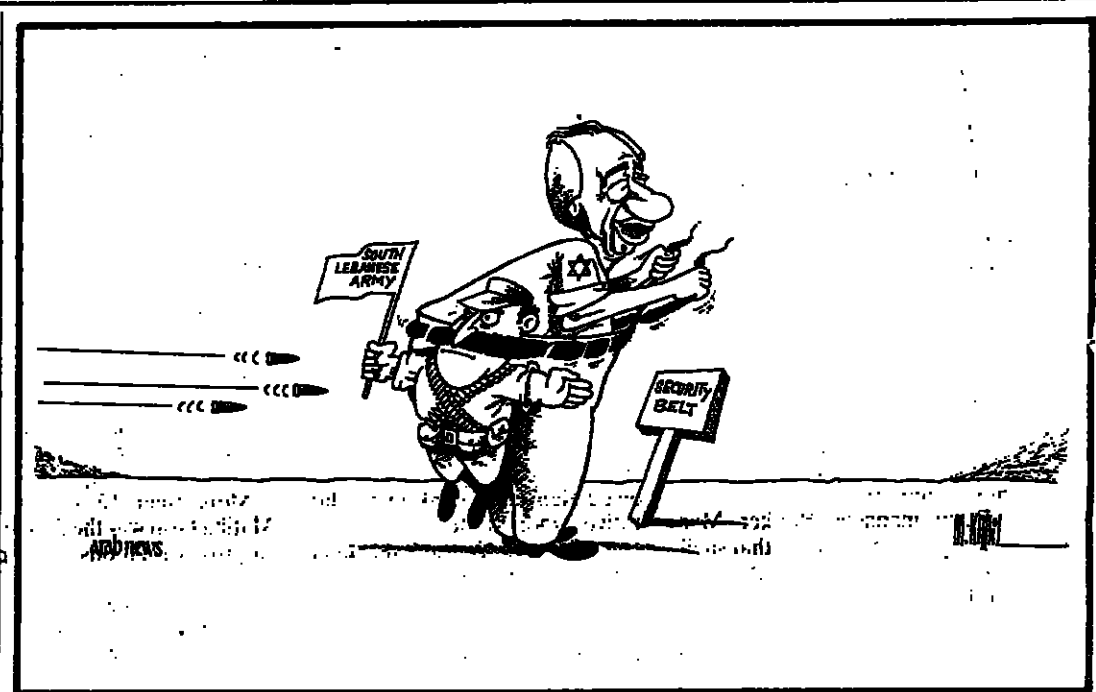
Accordingly, in present circumstances, (the international conference is an appropriate) framework, or rather the only framework, for reaching a just solution which is also accompanied by assured guarantees for the future.

The latest statements made by Reagan and Peres on their concept of the international conference demonstrate that they seek an "international conference" that will be an umbrella, a rubber stamp and an international endorsement of a liquidationist settlement of the right

The statements in question were, nevertheless, made as a pro-forma retreat in the face of the international campaign of pressure conducted by the United Nations and its member states, by world public opinion and by all the forces that truly desire, a just, comprehensive and lasting settlement. At the same time, caution should be used against any illusions created by this merely formal retreat.

The idea of the international conference is taking firm root among such extensive international circles that the United States and Israel cannot ignore them and are resorting to stratagems against them.

This shows the need to intensify the international pressure exerted by the United Nations, its member states, the peace-loving states and the forces of rationality on the rulers of the United States and (the rulers of) Israel as a (strategic) framework for bringing about a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East.



South Korean demands for democracy grow

A courtroom drama in one of South Korea's southern cities illustrates the government's increasing willingness to use harsh measures against student protests. Steven B. Butler, recently in Kwangju reports.

"LONG LIVE democracy!" Mr. Kang Sung-Ho bellowed out toward the courtroom audience before police whisked him away.

A three-judge panel stood up quickly and left through a door behind the bench. They had just sentenced Mr. Kang to five years in prison for violating South Korea's national security law.

Mr. Kang, a student activist from Chosun University who led a series of demonstrations against the government, was tried and convicted for being pro-Communist.

The courtroom audience immediately rose to their feet and began singing a church hymn. The Rev. Shin Kyung-Sik, of the Sung-Ji Church in Kwangju, followed with a long prayer.

"We bear witness before God," the pastor said, "that Kang Song-Jin is not a Communist!"

This courtroom drama, which took place on December 2 in the southern city of Kwangju, illustrates part of the deep political division in South Korea that is frequently obscured by more violent clashes between students and police.

A broad range of ordinary Koreans, many supported by Protestant and Catholic churches, is becoming frustrated and angry at what they see as government failure to bring democratic reforms.

In fact, Christianity and democracy have come together in South Korea in a way that frequently mimics important strands in the Western tradition. That has buttressed an even older Korean tradition — resistance to a central authority.

The courtroom audience was composed mostly of members of a Presbyterian church from the rural town of Kwangju.

The convicted man's father, Mr. Kang Bong-Nam, is a fertilizer merchant in the town and an elder of the church.

On the day of sentencing, as on earlier days of the trial, to express moral support for Mr. Kang and to protest against the government,

the church chartered a bus and filled the court with parishioners — mostly merchants and farmers, some retired.

One old man with a long, white beard showed up in rubber farm boots and silk pantaloons. A 60-year-old woman, seen days earlier in her village in work clothes, wore a purple dress with fake fur.

The government has begun to use the harsh national security law against student activists such as Mr. Kang because of what it seems as an alarming trend toward leftist political thinking. Students have become better organized and more violent.

Although South Korea's student radicals do not openly embrace Marxism (nor do they call for a withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Korea), strident political terminology such as "mass struggle" and calls for radical economic policies, such as dissolving big business groups, have increasingly found their way into political tracts denouncing the government.

The students have also criticised the U.S., calling for an end to American pressure to open the South Korean market and an end to what they say is U.S. support for "military dictatorship" in South Korea.

Government analysts have found much in parallel between student political rhetoric and North Korean propaganda, and have concluded that the students are in effect working for North Korea.

On these grounds they have tried and convicted students under the national security law, which was designed to protect the nation from subversion.

The government says the students are now led by a hardened core of professional revolutionaries.

It is impossible to know how many South Koreans accept the government's explanation. But in a country in which past governments have frequently branded opponents Communist,

there is clearly a broad residue of scepticism that is shared by members of the Kangjin Presbyterian Church.

Many South Koreans say they disapprove of student violence, but they are quick to add that they support what they think the students want — democracy, a sentiment clearly expressed in last February's National Assembly elections in South Korea.

People in Kangjin say they want greater control over their lives. Local officials, police and teachers are appointed by bureaucratic superiors who stretch up to the central government in Seoul.

Agricultural co-operatives, farmers complain, are controlled by government policy-makers, and cannot serve as a channel to express farmers' political interests.

This discontent recently boiled over with widespread farmers' protest against the government when prices declined sharply after the government encouraged farmers to purchase imported cattle.

There were some suicides, and some farmers illegally slaughtered cattle and left the carcasses on public squares.

In Kangjin recently, riot police broke up a demonstration of farmers who were dissatisfied with pay for work they did on public works construction.

There is a broad feeling in towns and villages that the little man is suffering in South Korea's current economic slowdown, while the ruling party has passed legislation granting tax relief to insolvent big business.

These attitudes hardly mean that South Korea is about to burst into flames. But they clearly show why the government is concerned. An opposition party leader, Mr. Lee Min-Woo recently announced that his party would begin a mass-signature campaign to revise the constitution to allow for direct election of the President.

The campaign thrusts at the very heart of the government's political programme. Even many government officials admit privately that the South Korean people are likely to support the amendment if the opposition's campaign is allowed to blossom. Financial Times news feature.

West Beirut's new casinos woo dedicated gamblers

By William MacClean
Reuter

BEIRUT — The roulette wheels are spinning at a handful of smart new casinos in war-ravaged west Beirut, attracting some of the most hardbitten gamblers in the world.

Braving militia mayhem, a tide of religious militancy and deepening economic crisis, the casinos are trying to woo wealthy west Beirut residents who previously could only try their luck at clubs reminiscent of wild west saloons.

"Lebanon has gambling in its blood. We love to take risks," said Antoine Franjeih, manager of the recently-opened Casbah Club at a west Beirut hotel.

"We took a chance starting this place, and my clients take risks travelling here to play," he added. "We are not afraid."

The new casinos are Muslim west Beirut's first attempt to match an illegal gambling scene that has mushroomed since the early years of the civil war in the Christian east of the city.

With east Beirut dominated by a single militia, its string of brass casinos, bingo parlours and Las Vegas-style gaming machine halls have fewer security headaches than establishments on the other side of town.

Security is strict at the west Beirut casinos, most of which operate in areas held by one of the largest militias. But the existence of half a dozen private armies in the Muslim-held sector keeps tension high.

Security men frisk gamblers for arms before they enter, and patrons on a winning streak are driven home with their takings by the casinos' machine-gun-toting bodyguards.

"Gambling is a respectable business, like foreign exchange. It goes on all over the world, so why not here?" asks Ali Zeiter, youthful proprietor of the flashy New Midway Casino.

He pointed out grey-suited young security men mingling with smartly-dressed gamblers at the roulette, blackjack and baccarat tables.

"Sometimes my friends are afraid to come out at night, but all you notice on the guards in my casino are their badges saying 'security'. The clients know very well what that means."

Zeiter hopes his clients, some of whom regularly lay out 50,000 to 100,000 Lebanese pounds (\$2,800 to 5,600) a night, will never face the gunfights that sometimes erupt among the pistol-packing denizens of the old-style clubs.

A foreigner who visited one of the older clubs for the first time returned shaken. "I saw one gambler press his revolver to the head of his neighbour who refused to leave at closing time," he said. "The gunman seemed playful, but it was late, everyone had been drinking. I decided to leave."

Gambling was not always so nerve-racking in Lebanon. Until the civil war broke out in 1975, wealthy tourists from all over the world made the pilgrimage to Casinò du Liban, a glittering nightspot that overlooked the Christian port of Jounieh.

With its spectacular nightly floor shows, the casino helped build Lebanon's pre-war reputation as the holiday playground of the east Mediterranean. But times are hard now.

"The shows stopped when this country collapsed," said Elias Abu Nader, manager of the casino's gambling salons. "Beirut

broke in two like Berlin, few roads were safe, and the really wealthy fled. The tourists have never returned."

Today, middle-class couples fill barely a third of the casino's luxurious salons, visits by foreign bands and dancers are rare, and a new generation of Christian rich spends its money at a network of militia-backed clubs.

"Things are very different now," said Maroun, a waiter at Casinò du Liban. "When the Europeans and Americans were here we waiters could hardly move through the crowds to serve drinks."

"We try much harder now to give service, but I can hardly educate my children on the baksheesh (tips)," he said.

Plans to modernise the casino, the only one with a state permit, and build a hotel extension have been held up amid uncertainty created by licence changes and a hefty 55 per cent government tax on revenue.

Abu Nader said the casino was losing 24 million pounds (\$1.4 million) annually on its gambling.

Other Beirut casinos, which pay taxes only to militias that back them, may face state tax demands for the first time under new permit arrangements to be unveiled this month.

But business is generally slow. Despite the expansion in west Beirut, casinos complain only the most dedicated gamblers are prepared to play as long as war keeps others away.

"There is almost nowhere to go, but I have money and I like absorbing myself in gambling, so why not," asked Rashid, a tuxedo-clad young car dealer playing blackjack. "We know we can walk out of here and soon be kidnapped and shot, but if we think of that too much we'll go mad."

Mafia holds New York by the pocket

By Michael Miller
Reuter

NEW YORK — The street killing of Paul Castellano, reputed "godfather" of the New York mafia, has focused attention on organised crime's grip on the city, which affects virtually all aspects of New Yorkers' lives.

The ruthless murder reminded residents of how much it costs them to live in a city where many legitimate service industries are said to be run by the "mob."

Police say the bill for this mafia involvement runs into hundreds of millions of dollars a year. Castellano, said by police to be the "boss of bosses" among U.S. crime families, and his heir apparent, Thomas Bilotti, were cut down by three gunmen on Monday as they were about to enter a smart Manhattan restaurant.

"The aggregate cost of organised crime to the average citizen of New York is astronomical," said John Hogan, head of the FBI bureau here, in an interview with the New York Times.

"It hits our pocketbooks, hits us on the job, hits us in the stores, hits in the houses we live in, on the roads we drive on. It accelerates our costs," he said.

Rudolph Giuliani, a U.S. attorney, said even New York's high restaurant prices reflected mafia activity, because it charges more for the delivery of food.

A New Yorker has no escape even if he eats at home because mafia-controlled businesses also deliver to the supermarkets.

The mob even handles the left-overs, dominating private garbage companies and hauling waste away from restaurants and supermarkets.

According to police reports, organised crime also increases the cost of electricity, handling millions of dollars of waste disposal contracts from Consolidated Edison, the firm that supplies much of the power to the eight million New Yorkers.

And if a New Yorker feels he is paying too much rent for his new apartment he can blame the mob who, according to New York state attorney general Robert Abrams, charge builders 40 million to 50 million dollars a year for concrete alone, or about 10 per cent more than they would otherwise have to pay.

The mafia is alleged to have a stranglehold on the trade unions that control many of New York's industries, such as concrete, shipping and the garment business.

What worries environmental authorities is that according to officials the mafia has extended its garbage disposal to the highly lucrative business of toxic waste.

"These people are not known for their responsibility. Our fear is that federal safety regulations regarding toxic waste handling will go by the board," an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) spokesman told Reuters.

Lasers becoming the scalpel of choice

By Catherine Arnst
Reuter

BOSTON — Precise beams of light are becoming the scalpel of choice for ophthalmologists who have found that lasers can perform eye operations often impossible to attempt with the surgeon's traditional instruments.

"Lasers are faster, less risky, and most importantly, they do not require cutting the eye," says medical consultant Irving Arons of Arthur D. Little, a business research company.

Arons predicted that demand for ophthalmic lasers will bloom by about 19 per cent a year by the end of 1990. New applications could mean even bigger increases as lasers are used to treat some of the most common eye diseases.

A recent study by doctors in Chicago showed that early laser treatment can reduce the vision loss caused by a condition found in about 400,000 Americans suffering from diabetes.

One of the most promising of the new applications is a procedure now being tested in which a new device called an Excimer

Laser is used to correct myopia, or shortsightedness, potentially eliminating the need for glasses for many people.

The laser, an acronym for light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation, converts electromagnetic energy into light beams that can be precisely aimed at selected targets.

The laser's light is emitted by different types of gases, such as argon, carbon dioxide or krypton, depending on whether the doctor wants to cut, vaporise or melt the tissue.

Lasers were invented in 1960, and the first ophthalmologic application occurred a year later. But the past five years have seen rapid growth in their use in eye treatment, mirroring a leap in the sophistication of laser technology.

Often called "bloodless scalpels," lasers can remove abnormal tissue while causing minimal or no damage to adjacent normal tissue. They also reduce the incidence of bleeding, pain and infection, thus shortening hospital stays dramatically.

Theodore Maiman, inventor of the laser, predicts there will be "a

laser in every doctor's office within the next decade."

Arons reckons the worldwide market for ophthalmic lasers is likely to top \$150 million within the next two years, equal to about a third of all laser sales, and should reach \$300 million by the end of the decade.

Such rosy prospects have drawn dozens of laser manufacturers to the ophthalmology market. But steep research and development costs, rapidly changing technology and the slow pace of new medical device approvals from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are expected to take their toll on many of the newcomers, analysts said.

Lasers sold for eye surgery today are made mostly by large conglomerates, but smaller firms are entering the market, many specialising in a specific type of laser. Hotly tipped for success are those producing the Yag Lasers used in post-cataract treatment.

Cataract surgery is the most frequently performed operation in the United States — 650,000 a year — and at least a third of these

patients require a follow-up operation to remove a membrane that becomes cloudy after surgery and can cause blindness. The Yag Laser blasts this membrane away in seconds.

The Excimer Laser, which emits ultra-violet light and is capable of cutting notches in a single strand of hair without breaking the hair, is the latest addition to the growing stable.

Gary Klauwimer, president of Questek, one of three firms manufacturing Excimer Lasers, said their greatest potential lies in radial kerotomy, a technique which corrects myopia.

Currently doctors use a diamond scalpel to perform the operation, making eight to 16 incisions radiating like spokes from near the centre of the cornea to the outside edge.

Klauwimer said the Excimer Laser, which produces no heat, is much more accurate than a scalpel and, unlike other lasers, will not fuse the surrounding tissue because it produces no heat. He expects FDA approval in about two years.

'Jewellery' missing from Jordan's newspapers

By a Jordan Times Staff
Reporter

AMMAN — Most readers of the three Amman-based Arabic dailies and the Jordan Times are sure to have noticed the marked absence of timely international photographs to go with the daily headlines over the past several months.

Well, the reason for the most unusual state of affairs is simple — something to do with the vital vitamin "M" (Money). And that too in large doses.

For the past several years, the wirephoto services of the Associated Press were the mainstay for Jordanian newspapers to obtain international photographs on a daily basis. Installed many years back, the AP equipment had not cost much and the operative and subscription expenses were moderate.

As it is rightly said, good things don't last long and the case was no different with the AP services. The news agency introduced sweeping changes in its transmission network for both news and wirephotos and switched from radio channels to cable network. In essence it meant three things: the old receivers had to be scrapped, new equipment had to be bought and new telephone lines had to be secured.

The new equipment replaced the old ones and the AP hooked up the receivers with its international network through the newly acquired "spare" telephone lines.

Readers of the Jordan Times might have noticed that the newspaper relied on Reuters exclusively for over 18 months in 1984 and 1985 for international news. The first part of the period was the result of intense behind-the-scenes negotiations for new AP equipment and the second part was the so-called "transitional"

period involved in switching to the new cable network.

It was a much welcomed change for news editors at the newspaper to receive better quality wirecopies of news through the new AP system. Better quality copies in the sense that they were more legible and made life easier for those who used to sit down and try to "unriddle" the hundreds of thousands of letters and figures that used to pour in everyday through the old system. The new machine produces good, legible copies and "garbling" is kept at its minimum.

So far so good. Then came the question of wirephotos and the answer appeared to be simple when Reuters introduced and offered its own services to Jordanian newspapers. One would have thought things would be cheaper than before now that an element of competition came into the picture. But it was not to be.

It turned out that the same system — new equipment and a telephone hook-up — was essential for the AP wirephoto services. When the newspapers turned to Reuters they met the same answer. Then came the question of costs. It appears that the installation of new AP equipment would cost around JD 6,000 and the monthly subscription about JD3,000.

How about Reuters then? Equipment and installation costs were estimated at JD 15,000 and monthly subscription at JD 6,000.

The AP transmits about 20 photographs every day while Reuters sends about 30 photographs. It meant that each AP photograph would cost about JD 5 each while Reuters photos cost JD 7.5 each.

Not bad at all, one would say, when considering that a photograph would cost only JD5 for a newspaper with a circulation of tens of thousands. But it does not always work that way. The deals

with both the AP and Reuters were "either you take the entire service or none at all," which meant that the monthly cheques should be for the full amount whether the newspaper uses one wirephoto or all of the transmitted ones.

Obviously it was a situation where no-one having a stake in the financial side of running a newspaper would be anxious to spend "such a lot of money for a few photographs from Nicaragua or the Fiji Islands." And the situation was stalemate and remains so to date.

The sad state of affairs was highlighted in the past three months when a number of important events took place around the world. It was not without pangs of conscience that the Jordan Times used photos taken from the television screen or reprinted day-old pictures from international newspapers when His Majesty King Hussein was in the U.S., the American and Soviet leaders met in Geneva or when Colombia was

hit by a volcano disaster. "Something was better than nothing" — this was the logic that prevailed within the newspaper editorial rooms and those who took the decision hoped for understanding from the readers. Photographs are the essential jewelry of a daily and it is not exactly an ideal situation when the reader is confronted with blocks and blocks of thick black scripts of hard news and nothing to break up the cluster of headlines. But then, there are few other options at the moment.

The news agencies and the Jordanian government are conducting talks on how to solve the problem and ensure that Amman newspapers do get wirephotos at cheaper costs. It is not known how the situation could be rectified but the Jordan Times is keeping its fingers crossed, hoping for a better turn of events in the New Year. Whether Santa Claus would pass by the newspaper and present us with a wirephoto receiving machine and its peripherals is something that remains to be seen.

How do they get wirephotos...

For those who don't know how the wirephoto services work: descriptions of wirephotos expected to be transmitted are sent on the news network of the concerned agency some two or three hours before the scheduled transmission time. The time varies from agency to agency but in general terms a subscriber could expect batches of photographs at 7 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m., and 7 p.m.

Apart from the descriptions or "captions" as they are popularly known, the agency also makes it a point to mention availability of wirephotos to go with main stories by adding either "(see pic)" or "(with wirephoto)" with the headline of the news item. The captions also say whether the photographs are "vertical" or "horizontal" so that page editors could arrange lay-outs accordingly.

As the transmission starts, a loud beep emanates from the receiver machine and it is time for someone to feed paper into the machine installed in a darkroom. Each photograph takes about two to three minutes for transmission and new paper has to be fed for every picture. The paper then goes through the developing process and gets ready for transfer into bromides before going on the page.

Kenyan orchids ease their way into shops in Tokyo to Helsinki

By Osei Kofi
Reuter

NAIROBI — At Africa's largest orchid farm, they found an unorthodox way to fight off an invasion of predatory spalls. They got them drunk on beer.

Farm manager Booker Machariah said somewhere that snails loved stout, so every night pails of the brown, frothy brew were placed all over the farm.

Drawn by the strong aroma, they left the orchids, fell in the stout and drank themselves to death.

"It cost less than pesticides,

which can stain the flowers," Machariah said at the 40-acre farm nestled among the green hills north of the Kenya capital.

Machariah's flair for pest control is just one of the components in a success story which has allowed Kenya to break into a lucrative export trade.

Owned by former University lecturer Edith Matiba, the farm grows 43,000 plants of cymbidium, an orchid with a delicate fragrance which ranges in colour from creamy white to deep burgundy.

Cymbidium will stay fresh for at least five weeks in a vase, an ex-

ceptional quality which makes it perfect for export to places as far apart as Tokyo and Helsinki.

Matiba exports 1.5 tonnes of cymbidium stems a month. Alone, she accounts for 90 per cent of Kenya's orchid exports.

More than 15 years ago the Matiba farm was the first in Kenya to grow cymbidiums for export. It switched to orchids when the carnation field became too crowded.

Machariah, a soft-spoken father of five, said Matiba, the wife of Kenya's Minister for Culture and Sports, lured him away from his primary school teaching job and set him on a four-month training tour of the Netherlands, the hub of the world's flower industry.

Through entrepreneurs like Matiba, Kenya has broken the stranglehold of Australian, Spanish, Italian and Israeli producers on the European off-season fruit and vegetable market.

Besides an impressive list of tropical produce including chillies, mangoes, pineapples, avocados and mushrooms, Kenya now exports strawberries, grapes, plums, celery and French beans, mainly to the European Community.

About 135 exporters sold 31,000 tonnes of fruit, vegetables and flowers abroad last year bringing in \$27 million in foreign exchange. Ten years ago, less than a million dollars was earned from about 4,000 tonnes of exports.

The horticulture business was non-existent 15 years ago. Now it is the third foreign exchange earner in the agricultural sector after coffee and tea.

Behind the horticultural breakthrough is the state-run Kenyan External Trade Authority which advises prospective exporters on entering a competitive market, organises fairs abroad and introduces local sellers to foreign buyers.

A lack of adequate cargo space on north-bound aircraft remains the most pressing problem facing the young industry, growers and exporters say.

Every week some 400 tonnes of produce perish at Nairobi Airport or during transit in Europe for lack of cargo space, Junior Agriculture Minister George Mwigiti said recently.

Most north-bound aircraft originate in South Africa which take up most of the freight space. An informed trade source said the government would soon require wire aircraft stopping in Nairobi to reserve cargo space proportionate to the number of passengers they pick up there.

Answering a common criticism that Third World countries struggling with problems of undernourishment should not allocate prime land and fertiliser to produce food and flowers for export, Matiba said:

"What I am doing here complements government efforts... I am engaged in foreign trade and the foreign exchange I bring in helps the government purchase vital imported inputs needed for the country's overall development."

Yu Lan brings joy to heartbroken mother

By Wei Liming

WATCHING her 11-year-old daughter Yu Lan singing and dancing on the stage at a performance on a holiday, Sun Yinfen, a French translator at the Chinese Shipping Industrial Company in Peking, shed tears mixed with feelings of grief and joy.

"For more than three years, we have been waiting for a miracle to happen since we sent our mentally retarded daughter to the Yude Primary School," said Sun. "And now it seems to have really come about."

The story began on a December afternoon in 1973. That day, Sun Yinfen was shocked and fainted when she was told her husband had been knocked down by a car. Three months later, Yu Lan, her third daughter, was born. Unfortunately, the baby was diagnosed by the doctor as having severe motor and perception difficulties.

"We had had many dreams for our daughter — for her to learn French and to play the piano," the anguished mother said. "Suddenly, all our dreams came to nothing."

But, Sun Yinfen never lost hope for her daughter. At first, she tried hard to teach the child basic behaviour and language, meeting little success.

In 1979, China's first special class for mentally handicapped children was set up in Shanghai. Later, similar classes were established in a dozen other provinces and cities, including Peking, Tianjin, Shandong, Heilongjiang, Jiangsu, Hubei and Zhejiang.

According to a survey by the No. 1 Hospital attached to Peking Medical College, there are more than 6,000 mentally handicapped children in Peking. Another nationwide indicates that about 0.3 per cent of Chinese children are mentally handicapped. Projected to the national population this would indicate there are about 330,000 mentally handicapped in China.

In 1981, when the Yude Primary School in western Peking announced it was setting up a spe-

cial class for mentally handicapped children, applications and letters of encouragement poured in from all over the capital. Sun decided to try her luck placing her child in the school.

Since Yu Lan's aptitude-test scores were lower than those generally indicating an ability to become self-sufficient, the school authorities doubted whether she could be educated. But moved by the sincerity and determination of her parents, they accepted her on a trial basis.

Zhang Wan, the teacher in charge of Yu Lan's class, described Yu Lan's first day at school: "Her eyes were dull, and she could not walk steadily. After I called her name four times, she turned her face slowly, without any expression."

Nearly all mentally handicapped children have language problems. The teacher must train them to speak before learning. They repeat over and over: "My name is...". "I live in...". Each child gets a red star or applause from classmates as encouragement.

Zhang Wan thinks up many ways to encourage them to speak. She put Yu Lan's finger on her tongue to feel the tongue's correct place in the mouth and to sense the vibration of the vocal cords.

"Speaking and learning how to feed themselves occupied a lot of time at the beginning," Zhang said. Mentally handicapped children's ability to look after themselves is even less for 3-year-olds. "I had to feed Yu Lan for almost two years," said Zhang.

But everyone, including teachers, doctors and Yu Lan's parents had underestimated her underlying abilities and determination. During her first term, she mastered addition and subtraction up to 20. She has now learnt the Chinese phonetic alphabet.

Most of the teachers are experienced. Watching them teach, one is moved by their great patience, enthusiasm and dedication. Teaching aids are a great help in class. Each pupil has 10 small plastic elephants or rabbits, which are kept on their desks, helping them to understand. — China features.

Kuwait takes a firm step into farming

Turning desert into farmland in one of the world's most arid countries is expensive. But Kuwait is using its oil revenue to develop an agricultural sector whose irrigation water comes from sewage effluent — treated and piped through a massive sewerage scheme, Alan George is a geographer and freelance journalist based in London.

By Alan George

LONDON — To reduce its dependence on food imports, Kuwait is turning to farming. Piped from urban areas and treated, the water for irrigation to support vegetables, grains, poultry and eventually dairy farms will come from sewage effluent — for in one of the world's most arid countries, water conservation is essential.

Rapidly growing populations and industrial and agricultural expansion programmes have combined to place severe pressure on water supplies in the states of the Arabian Gulf. Kuwait's population, with a high growth rate of 3.2 per cent per year, is projected to number 2.1-2.6 million by 2010.

Kuwait leads the gulf countries in sewerage schemes designed to make the most of scarce water. This year the first phase of its most ambitious scheme, the Kuwait Effluent Utilisation Project (KEUP), was commissioned. Costing \$194 million, in the mid-1990s phase one will allow the development of 1,730 hectares of farmland, and 1,500 hectares of forest in Sulaybiyah, southwest of Kuwait City.

The KEUP will bring Kuwait self-sufficiency in milk, potatoes, onions and garlic, while increasing its output of other vegetables, fruit and flowers. Within 25 years, 3,130 hectares of farmland and 12,000 hectares of windbreak trees will exist on land which was formerly desert.

Kuwait's interest in effluent utilisation dates back to 1972, when the state's first major sewage treatment works, at Ardiyah, was commissioned. Less than one-third as big as KEUP in capacity,

the Ardiyah works supplied treated effluent to an experimental farm operated by the department of agriculture in nearby Omariyah. Shortly after, Ardiyah began to supply an 860 hectare farm owned by the United Agricultural Production Company at Sulaybiyah.

In addition to the Ardiyah plant, whose capacity was raised by 50 per cent by an extension opened in 1984, Kuwait has two main sewage works: the Coastal Villages plant in the southeast, and the Jahrah plant to the west of Kuwait city. Volumes of sewage handled by all three plants are planned to increase over the next two decades.

Only a small area in the Coastal Villages zone was designated for agriculture, leaving a massive surplus of effluent for use elsewhere. A smaller surplus will be available from the Jahrah plant. Since most of the projected agricultural areas are in the Sulaybiyah region, a transfer system forms an integral part of the KEUP.

The surplus from Coastal Villages is taken to Ardiyah via a 27 kilometre pipeline, and from there via a 23 kilometre pipeline to two 170,000 cubic metre storage reservoirs at the Sulaybiyah. The reservoirs also receive treated effluent from the Jahrah works. Here a data monitoring centre forms the operational core of the entire system.

Health considerations were a key factor in the KEUP design. Many of the disease-causing agents in sewage are removed with the sludge in primary and secondary stages of treatment. In order to assure the removal of



When completed this reservoir in Kuwait will store treated sewage-effluent to be used for irrigation (Earthscan photo)

almost all the remaining pathogens, the effluent is chlorinated and filtered through sand beds.

The choice of crops and irrigation methods was also determined by health factors. Spray-irrigation is restricted to those food crops which are cooked, and to animal fodder. To protect farmworkers, physical contact with sprayed crops is minimised by

mechanical harvesting. Crops to be eaten raw, such as tomatoes, strawberries, cucumbers and peppers, will be irrigated by drip-feed or trickle-strip methods, which supply water directly to roots, rather than to the exposed plant.

The KEUP will eventually cover the whole of Kuwait. Turning desert into farmland is expensive, but the KEUP provides

Kuwait with its only real chance to develop an agricultural sector.

Its new farmers, their water supplies assured, now share the concern of farmers everywhere — protecting their market from imported produce. In the case of Kuwait they are particularly worried about cheap vegetables from Turkey and Jordan — Earthscan Feature

Real Madrid stays on course to reestablish their supremacy

LONDON (R) — Real Madrid stayed on course to reestablish their old supremacy over rivals Barcelona in the Spanish soccer championship when they completed their programme for 1985 with a crushing 4-1 victory over Seville on Sunday.

But the Catalan club which has been so successfully revived by English coach Terry Venables stayed doggedly on Real's heels after struggling to a 2-0 home win against Racing Santander.

With only the British, Portuguese and Spanish leagues in action at the weekend, the tussle between the two great Iberian clubs stole the limelight from the open chase at the top of the English league where Chelsea and Everton moved into second and

third places respectively behind leaders Manchester United.

The wealth and tradition behind Madrid and Barcelona are unrivalled in Europe, even by the mightiest Italian clubs.

The rich entertainment of their perennial rivalry has been given added spice this season by Madrid's UEFA Cup success and massive spending in the Spanish transfer market, and Barcelona's bid to win the European Cup under

the shrewd Venables.

Real came from behind with second-half goals from Michel Gonzalez, Antonio Maceda, Jorge Valdano and Carlos Santillana to storm to victory in style.

Barcelona, by contrast, were frustrated for 80 minutes before midfielder Ramon Caldera scored with a 25-metre drive. Winger Francisco Carrasco added a second goal six minutes from time after a shot by West German star Bernd Schuster had rebounded from a post.

Sporting Gijon beat Las Palmas 1-0 with an injury-time penalty from Esteban Gutierrez to take third-place, one point behind Barcelona and one ahead of Atletico

Madrid and Athletic Bilbao.

In England, Manchester United's fixture at Newcastle was postponed, but Liverpool missed a chance to close the gap at the top when they were held to a 1-1 draw at Nottingham Forest.

Chelsea took full advantage by beating Tottenham 2-0 with goals from Kerry Dixon and Nigel Spackman.

In Portugal, Benfica beat Boavista 1-0 to go top of the league, midfielder Nunes scoring the only goal. It was their tenth consecutive game without conceding a goal.

Chief rivals Porto and Sporting both failed to win, Porto losing 2-0 at Covilha and Sporting drawing 2-2 at Salgueiros.

English soccer clubs decide on moves to cut number of teams in first division

BIRMINGHAM, England (R) — English first division soccer clubs decided on moves Sunday to cut the division from 22 to 20 teams and increase the second division to 24.

Their proposals, which will be discussed with second division clubs in January, will have to be ratified by a meeting of the English Football League in February.

They would be implemented over the next two seasons and involved the three relegated clubs from the first division and the three promoted from the second taking part in playoffs for two first division places.

Phil Carter, chairman of English League champions Everton, said: "We are making positive progress and I shall be disappointed if we don't have a clear format by the end of January."

Meanwhile in Scotland a breakaway league of nine major clubs looked almost certain to be formed after a meeting in Perth Sunday.

The nine clubs — Aberdeen, Rangers, Celtic, Hearts, Hibernian, Dundee, Dundee United,

St. Mirren and Motherwell — are all currently in the Premier Division of the Scottish League.

Rangers' Secretary Campbell Ogilvie, spokesman for the nine clubs, said they were preparing a constitution and rules governing the formation of a new league. They would then apply formally to the Scottish Football Association for permission to operate the league under their jurisdiction next season.

Ogilvie said the nine had wished to achieve reorganisation within the framework of the established Scottish League but were upset that the league management committee recently refused to meet them and discuss their proposals.

Ogilvie said: "Our attempts to achieve reorganisation within the framework of the league were rendered totally impossible by the intransigence and uncooperative attitude of the committee."

Regarding new years day Derby matches London's challengers for the English first division title face a day of reckoning on Wednesday when the capital city's four leading

soccer teams meet.

Second-placed Chelsea travel east across the city to play fifth-placed West Ham while seventh-placed Arsenal entertain ninth-placed north London rivals Tottenham in fixtures sure to attract big holiday crowds in spite of the freezing weather.

With leaders Manchester United and former European champions Liverpool both faltering and only defending champions Everton of the northern challengers showing impressive form, this season's title race is the most open for many years and offers London its best opportunity of the championship since Arsenal won in 1971.

But, as Tottenham manager Peter Shreeve has pointed out, one of the major problems for London clubs has been the number of Derby matches they play — matches which frequently produce unexpected results and upset sequences of consistent form.

In-form Chelsea must therefore avoid defeat at West Ham, whose

18-match unbeaten run was ended by Tottenham last Thursday, if they are to make the most of their fine win over the "Spurs" last Saturday.

England striker Kerry Dixon, whose opening goal against Tottenham was his 21st of the season making him England's top scorer alongside Everton's Gary Lineker, has no doubt about Chelsea's ability.

"I see no reason why we cannot win the title... I have said all along that Chelsea have the talent and I see no reason to change my mind," he said.

Chelsea's mixture of strength, determination and good finishing by Dixon and Scotland's David Speedie may give them the edge over West Ham whose resurgence this season has mainly been due to another Scottish striker — Frank McAvennie.

Arsenal, whose rejuvenated team have reeled off three successive wins, are likely to improve their position further with a success against Tottenham.

Europeans set to keep 'Sao Silvestre' victories

SAO PAULO (R) — Olympic 10,000 metres finalist Christoph Herle of West Germany and Portugal's Rosa Mota will attempt to maintain Europe's domination of South America's most prestigious road race Tuesday, the Sao Paulo round-the-houses event.

Mota and her compatriot Carlos Lopes, the marathon world record holder and Olympic champion, swept to emphatic victories in the 12.6 kilometres race last year.

While Lopes is absent this time, Mota will be out to claim her fifth successive win when the race — being run for the 61st time — begins at 23.05 local time (01.05 GMT) to usher in the new year.

Europeans are likely to figure most prominently in the men's race with Herle, his fellow-West German Herbert Steffny and Italian Gianni Poli.

Colombia and the United States could provide the main opposition.

Marathon specialist Ron Tabb will be bidding to become only the third American to win the "Sao Silvestre" race around the skyscraper-lined streets of central Sao Paulo since it began in 1924.

Colombians have won on several occasions in the past but twice runner-up Silvio Salazar and Jesus Amariles may struggle to add to their nation's success this year.

Giants eliminate 49ers

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey (Agencies) — New York Giants quarterback Phil Simms threw for two touchdowns and Joe Morris rushed for 141 yards Sunday to eliminate the San Francisco 49ers, 17-3, in the National Football League playoffs.

The Giants scored in the first quarter on a 47-yard field goal by Eric Schubert, who later missed three shorter attempts.

In the second quarter, the Giants moved 38 yards in four plays after Terry Kinard intercepted 49ers quarterback Joe Montana's pass.

New York scored when Simms threw an 18-yard pass to tight end Marc Bavaro.

The Giants scored again in the third quarter after Simms, who

passed for 181 yards capped a 77-yard, eight-play drive with a three-yard touchdown pass to Don Hasselbeck.

San Francisco quarterback Joe Montana threw for 296 yards, but his receivers dropped several passes, which probably would have gone for big gains if they had been held.

The 49ers' only score came on a 21-yard field goal by Ray Werschling with 22 seconds remaining in the first half.

The Giants, with their victory Sunday, advanced to the National Football Conference (NFC) semifinals next Sunday against the Chicago Bears in Chicago.

The New England Patriots were 26-14 winners over the New York Jets in Giants stadium.

Sagacious lodges protest over Australian yacht race

HOBART, Tasmania (R) — A committee will decide the result of the Sydney-Hobart yacht race after an official protest was lodged late Monday night by second-placed Sagacious.

News of the protest was received minutes after race officials had declared the New South Wales yacht Drake's Prayer provisional winner of the yachting classic on corrected time.

Australian yacht Apollo, a Sydney maxi skippered by Warwick Rooklyn, took the line honours. Sydney sloop Sagacious named Drake's Prayer and Syd Fischer's maxi yacht Ragamuffin in its protest over international yacht racing rule 35 concerning luffing, a turning manoeuvre.

It is understood to be the first time in the race's history that a protest has been lodged against a provisional winner.

A pre-race incident in Sydney harbour on boxing day lies at the heart of the dispute.

Sagacious, owned by Garry Appleby, led the race on corrected time from the second afternoon until early Monday when she became becalmed in storm bay with 30 miles to go to the finish.

An international jury will hear the protest Tuesday morning along with two other disputes concerning starting incidents.

Ragamuffin has lodged a protest against the yacht Zap and the Tasmanian yacht Police Car has protested against Di Hard.

Japan edges Jordan in Asian basketball tourney

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Thailand defeated Indonesia 100-71 Monday night in a group A match of the 13th Asian Basketball Championship for men.

Indonesia led 42-37 at halftime, the national news agency Bernama reported.

In a group B match played in Ipoh, Japan defeated Jordan 83-80. The Japanese led 47-39 at halftime.

In Penang, South Korea defeated Hong Kong 113-58 in a group C match. The Koreans led 50-30 at halftime, Bernama added.

Fifteen countries are competing in the championship, which ends next Sunday.

In the other group C match in Penang, Taiwan thrashed Singapore 107-68.

Taiwan led 60-18 in the first half.

In Ipoh, the Philippines defeated Pakistan 100-51 in a group B match after leading 45-30 at halftime, Bernama reported.

In the last match of the day played here, India defeated Sri Lanka 131-66. India led 71-29 at the half of the group B match.

Olson sets new pole vaulting mark

SASKATOON, Saskatchewan (R) — Billy Olson of the United States set a world indoor pole vaulting record Sunday, clearing 5.86 metres on his first attempt. "I knew as soon as I left the ground I was going to make it," Olson said. "It was my best run and jump of the day. There were probably parts of me that were four inches over." His vault at the Saskatchewan indoor games erased the previous world best of 5.85 metres held by Thierry Vigneron of France.

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VISITING HOURS

(Colour)

Performances: 8:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema AL-HUSSEIN

Tel: 622112

KILLER IN A THOUSAND WAYS

(Colour)

Performances: 12:30, 3:00, 6:30, 8:00

Cine-Theatre Philadelphia

Tel: 634144 - 634149

BODY ROCK

(Colour)

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:15

Cinema RAGHADAN

Tel: 622198

RAMADAN OVER THE VOLCANO

(Colour)

Performances: 12:30, 3:00, 6:30, 8:00

Cinema OPERA

Abdell, behind Alfa office

Tel: 675573

CHESTY ANDERSON U.S. NAVY

(Colour)

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One sterling	1.4385/4400	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3985/92	Canadian dollars
	2.4640/60	West German marks
	2.7760/80	Dutch guilders
	2.0770/800	Swiss francs
	50.32/37	Belgian francs
	7.5550/5650	French francs
	1682/1684	Italian lire
	201.00/10	Japanese yen
	7.5925/6025	Swedish crowns
	7.5825/5925	Norwegian crowns
	8.9750/9850	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	326.10/326.60	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — The market closed higher as shares met steady demand, following encouraging weekend press comment and a shortage of stock held back by dealers said. At 1530 GMT the FTSE 100 index was 13.1 up at 1,412.0.

Hawker Siddeley added 10p to 461, B.P. advanced 13p to 561, and Reuters rose 19p to 375 after recent demand in the U.S., dealers said. Selected stocks were below best levels as in Beecham 5p higher at 368 after 373, in the wake of renewed speculative demand, they added.

Government bonds turned early 1/16 point gains into declines of around 1/4 point in line with sterling, dealers said.

Distillers held at 500p after 508 earlier and showed little reaction to the company's defence document to Argyl's offer. Argyl, 8p higher at 343 was likewise unmoved. ICI gained 7p at 754. P and O ended 11p higher at 456 following last week's news on a stake in European Ferries, which closed 1/2p up at 139 1/2. British and Commonwealth Shipping advanced 15p to 318 after favourable weekend press comment, dealers said.

Stores gained steadily with Dixons 13p up at 907 and Woolworths added 10p to 525. Golds were higher but showed scattered issues off best levels. North Americans were mixed.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is a very interesting day since it brings you the chance to make some long-range plans early in the day. However, pace yourself so you do not defeat your purposes by being too impulsive.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Plan how to get partnership matters working well for a long time to come. Reach definite decisions and do not deviate.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Concentrate on how best to take care of problematical affairs connected with work during the new year ahead. Listen to a co-worker.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You have fine creative ideas for the days ahead that should be whittled down to the practical before presenting to bigwigs.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Get busy solving some condition at home that does not please you and bring more harmony there.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Handle tasks in such a way that you gain your goals more easily. Be careful not to be too forceful with partners.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You are thinking in a practical vein and can also get your property improved. Shop around so you can stay within your budget.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Go after personal aims that will last for some time and gain them. Do whatever work is necessary. Spend evening with friends.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Early analysis just where you are going and how best to gain your goals in the future. Avoid arguments with loved ones.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Consider what it is that you most want and then plan how to get it. Friends should be approached tactfully at this time.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Let a bigwig know what your civic goals are and gain support. Do nothing cantankerous that could spoil your chances.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Become more enthusiastic about work to be done which can increase production and bring you greater benefits.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Improve your relationships with persons who are wealthy and secure and you can make your own life more satisfying.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be exposed to all standard moral codes and accepted modes of procedure which can spell greater success in life. One who will love to study and be willing to work. Be sure your progeny does not overeat or indulge in many sweets.

Spanish government struggles to rescue motor industries

MADRID — The Spanish government is making determined efforts to see off threats to cut or even close the production lines in its French-controlled car factories.

Renault's most powerful trade union in Spain to protect jobs at home and Mr. Jacques Calvet, chairman of the rival Peugeot group, half threatened closure of his company's plants if he did not get what he wanted from the Madrid authorities.

Faced from Jan. 1 with the new opportunities and risk of European Community (EC) membership, the Spanish government is negotiating hard to maintain, and even increase, the output from the French companies in Spain.

An urgent spring-cleaning of the motor industry has already begun with an agreement between the authorities and Renault on a 50 billion pesetas (\$313 million) spending programme by the French state group to update its production lines.

Talks are being held with both branches of the Peugeot group — Citroen and Peugeot Talbot — on investments to reshape their factories.

The talks coincide with negotiations for handing over control of the state-owned Spanish car maker Seat to Volkswagen, with which it so far has only a production agreement. Takeover will involve the government paying for the virtual reconstruction of loss-ridden Seat as a company — and the alluring aroma of handouts has reached the nostrils of other producers.

All three French-controlled companies, which were set up well before the arrival of Ford and General Motors in Spain, will have to make some fundamental adjustments after EC accession.

Their strategy up to now has been based on producing a range of models to cover the protected Spanish market.

As tariffs on cars imported from the rest of the EC come down over a seven-year transition period, they propose to switch to producing fewer models in greater numbers.

In terms of parts supplies, Spanish car factories will become integrated in the groups' pan-European strategies. After four years Spain must jettison its rule stipulating majority Spanish content and at Peugeot Talbot, for instance, management foresees an imported content considerably higher than the present maximum of 40 per cent.

Hopes centre on productivity

Spain's hopes of preserving its place among the main European manufacturers — fourth in the number of cars produced, and third in exports — will depend solely on productivity. The central issue is excess labour and the difficulty of getting rid of it. According to a government official's optimistic estimate, about 6,000 of the 80,000 jobs in car making in Spain should go.

One of the legacies of the Franco regime is a system of job protection, originally created as a trade-off for the suppression of union liberties. The only way of gaining approval for job reductions in the car industry has been through agreements with unions on voluntary redundancy and early retirement schemes. With unemployment at over 20 per cent, it has become increasingly hard, and costly, to persuade workers to leave.

Manufacturers blame lack of investments, modernisation

Manufacturers mainly blame this problem for holding up investment and modernisation. In the absence of basic changes in the redundancy laws, a topsy-turvy situation has now arisen, in which a socialist government is to foot the bill for multinational companies to shed workers.

The threat by Mr. Calvet to consider cutting activities in Spain reflected the level of frustration over Peugeot Talbot. The factory at Villaverde, in the industrial "red belt" south of Madrid, used to belong to Chrysler, and was a profit-maker until Peugeot took over the U.S. group's European operations in 1978.

Weighted down by a truck division (now owned by Renault) it then turned into a loss-maker. In 1982, when the plant was still practically non-robotised, a three-year plan was launched to bring it into line with French Talbot factories in quality and productivity. Almost 4,500 jobs were to be shed, bringing the workforce down to 6,000 by October 1985.

There are still 1,800 jobs to go. Lump-sum payments averaging about three million pesetas for non-skilled workers, about 2 1/2 years' pay, have proved an inadequate enticement.

Peugeot Talbot is now discussing a further three-year plan to complete its reorganisation. With increases in exports (but not to France), it has been reducing its losses but is still in the red. As a condition for aid, the Spanish government wants it to mudge production up to 100,000 cars a year and to commit itself to exporting up to half that number if the Spanish market proves insufficient.

For an investment plan worth between 11 billion pesetas and 12 billion pesetas, the company wants the government to subsidise part (probably 15 per cent) and provide interest relief on credits for the remainder, plus about 4.4 billion pesetas in labour funds.

Between Peugeot Talbot and Citroen, subsidies and assisted

loans are expected to come to more than 40 billion pesetas. "The Peugeot group is in a bad way," said a senior government expert. "It needs help in France. So it is unthinkable that it should not get similar help in Spain," he added.

Compared with its sister company, Citroen's labour problem is less dramatic, with government officials putting the surplus at 900 out of 8,500 in its plants at Vigo and Orense in northwest Spain. But without a previous plan like Peugeot Talbot's, and without a car as successful as the latter's Peugeot 205, its losses have been increasing.

The scheme under discussion would mean making more Citroen cars — 160,000 a year — but drastically reducing its broad product range. The idea is that each company should concentrate on just two models, which would be enough to ensure continuity. Thus Peugeot Talbot, while continuing its present Talbot lines for the time being, would devote itself primarily to the 205 and to the new Peugeot 309, just launched in France.

Citroen, aside from its vans, would focus on the BX saloon and a new, smaller car.

Renault, with three production centres in Spain, is in better shape than the others despite a sharp reduction in the number of vehicles it sends to its French parent. But it is also getting two billion pesetas from the government for new technology.

Ford will equally require support if it opts to reinforce its Spanish operation under its new European investment programmes, as yet undefined.

For Spain in its current stage of development, the motor industry is seen as a more important part of the economic structure than in, say West Germany or France. The government's urgent programme is aimed at consolidating the country's advantage as a low-cost production base for small cars.

The manufacturers are handicapped, however, by the weakness of home demand. The Spanish market, potentially one of Europe's strongest, has been depressed since 1977, falling by more than a quarter. The sector is now up in arms at plans to impose value-added tax of 33 per cent on cars next year.

Although this is slightly less than the taxes which value added tax is replacing, it is felt as unfairly high in comparison with other European car-producing countries.

— Financial Times news feature.

U.S. forecasters expect slightly better days ahead

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. economy, which disappointed many people in 1985, is likely to perform slightly better next year, forecasters say.

These economists see 1986 as a year of moderate growth with continued mild inflation, falling interest rates and an unemployment rate stuck about where it is now — in short, a year much like the one just ending.

However, economists are cautious because the economy is now in the fourth year of recovery from the 1981-82 recession, and they consider that unusually long for a recovery.

Analysts don't see the forces that normally trigger recessions, but they say the dangers of a downturn are likely to intensify in 1987.

The year ending was not kind to the forecasting profession. When it began, many economists were expecting growth to be 3.5 per cent to four per cent, which would be strong enough to reduce unemployment.

The optimism stemmed in part from the strongest growth in the United States in three decades: a 6.6 per cent increase in the Gross National Product (GNP) in 1984.

However, 1985 turned weaker. According to preliminary estimates, the GNP grew just 2.4 per cent last year, the slowest pace since the last recession. U.S. manufacturers were hampered all year by a strong dollar which sent the country's trade deficit soaring as foreign goods poured into the country and U.S. manufacturers found their overseas markets drying up.

With the dollar now on the decline, many economists say 1986 will see some rebound in growth. Blue Chip Economic Indicators, an investment newsletter, said a survey of 50 economists found a consensus for growth of 3.1 per cent in 1986. A year ago, this survey was calling for growth of 3.5 per cent in 1985.

But Mr. Robert J. Eggert, edi-

tor of the newsletter, said the 1986 average hides the widest spread of individual forecasts in the nine years he has conducted the survey.

The most optimistic analyst is calling for growth at 5.2 per cent next year, while the most pessimistic is predicting a new recession with the GNP contracting by 0.7 per cent.

"Generally, when there is this kind of disagreement among economists, then businesses need to be on the cautious side," Mr. Eggert said last week.

President Ronald Reagan's administration, however, is not concerned. It will release its updated economic forecast on Tuesday, with advance indications it would be close to an earlier projection of four per cent growth, the original prediction for 1985.

The administration and other optimists point to the recent strong surge in the stock market and sharp declines in interest rates to bolster their belief that the economy is reviving.

Many believe the financial rally reflects enthusiasm on Wall Street over congressional passage of the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings amendment, which requires a balanced federal budget by 1991.

"I think people are underestimating the strength of the economy. The stock market is up because business profits are going to rise 20 per cent over the next year," said Mr. Michael Evans, head of a Washington forecasting firm, who is predicting GNP growth next year of four per cent.

However, pessimists are worried that a cutback in government spending because of the deficit-reduction effort coupled with a slowdown in consumer purchases and business investment will lead to sluggish growth next year.

"The consumer just can't con-

sume and the initial indications are that businessmen don't plan to invest very much next year either," said Mr. David Wyss, an economist with Data Resources Inc. of Lexington, Massachusetts. His firm is forecasting 1986 growth at two per cent.

Here are other economic expectations for 1986: Inflation: Consumer prices have risen this year at an annual rate of 3.6 per cent and many analysts believe that moderate inflation performance will persist through 1986.

While some analysts believe the falling value of the dollar will push up the price of imported goods, many expect this increase to be offset by further declines in oil prices. Mr. David Benson of Wharton Econometrics predicted oil would drop to \$24 a barrel next year from the current spot market price of \$28. This decline will hold consumer prices to just a 3.1 per cent increase next year, he predicted.

Interest Rates: These declined for most of this year and many analysts expect this trend to continue for much of 1986. Mortgage rates have fallen to 11.09 per cent for fixed-rate loans, the lowest level in six years.

Some analysts believe mortgage rates will drop into the single-digit range next spring for the first time since 1978.

Unemployment: The jobless rate was stuck for much of the year at 7.3 per cent as widespread layoffs in U.S. manufacturing dampened the effects of job gains elsewhere. While the rate did fall to seven per cent in November, many analysts are expecting little improvement for the next year.

"You normally need growth in excess of three per cent to get declines in the unemployment rate," said Mr. John Hagens, a vice president at Chase Econometrics. "Since we expect growth will only average 2.5 per cent next year, we look for the unemployment rate to stay about where it is," he added.

Santa Fe inquiry clears officials

KUWAIT (R) — An official inquiry in Kuwait has found no evidence linking Kuwaiti officials with insider trading in the takeover of the U.S. oil drilling firm Santa Fe, the Kuwait News Agency KUNA reported Monday.

The attorney-general's report on the inquiry into the \$2.5 billion purchase in 1981 by state-owned Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) was reviewed by the cabinet Sunday.

"The report deduced that no Kuwaiti administration or KPC officials had directly or indirectly benefited from dealing in the Santa Fe shares as a result of said leakage of information on the negotiations that led to its purchase," KUNA added.

It said the 334-page report "resolved that the American bourse's conclusion on May 1, 1985, that KPC board members and other KPC and Kuwaiti government officials were not responsible for such leakage, was correct."

The government ordered the inquiry in June amid national assembly criticism of Oil Minister Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah, who is also KPC chairman, over the Santa Fe purchase.

Sheikh Ali, responding to assembly questions, earlier had released a letter dated May 1 from the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) saying a 3-1/2 year inquiry had shown no evidence of insider trading by KPC officials.

In its letter, the SEC said it had ended successfully three suits in the case, but did not identify the defendants. Another case against several accused, including Kuwaiti businessman Faisal Al Masoud Al

Fehaid, was being processed. It added.

It named a Lebanese, an Iraqi and two Qataris among the accused, along with two Lichtenstein-registered firms — the Rashad and Install corporations.

The SEC alleged they dealt mainly through Swiss banks. KUNA referred to the "trial of a Kuwaiti businessman in the United States for attaining information leaked during the negotiation process which ensured him with material gains."

But, it said, the inquiry decided available information was insufficient "to confirm any KPC board member was involved in such leakage."

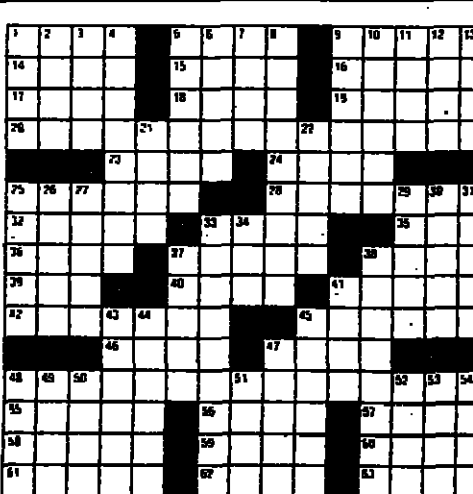
UAE gives boost to industries

ABU DHABI (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) announced a new government purchase policy Monday to boost local industries. Local products may be priced up to 10 per cent more than foreign ones of equal quality provided delivery times are respected, according to a cabinet resolution reported by the Emirates News Agency WAM.

THE Daily Crossword by Virginia Yates

ACROSS

- Guardian's charge
- Saucy
- One who hoards
- Part of USA
- Inter
- Sharp
- Administration words
- Candle part
- Small deranges
- Trifling amount
- Place for
- Society boy
- Atmosphere
- Compel
- Fall asleep
- Kind of mat or setting
- Infrequent
- Gaelic sea god
- Very source
- Magnate
- Galaxy
- Napoleonic
- Unit
- Flaccid
- Meatline
- Brayer
- Pays a casual visit
- Osteohuman
- Tenacity
- Small store
- With little provocation
- populo
- Norway's saint
- Carry on
- Slips in
- Help
- Supply group
- doctro
- Alchemist's
- word
- Wain
- inght
- inght's rod
- Capit
- Outstanding city
- Relative of
- plant
- Plains Indian



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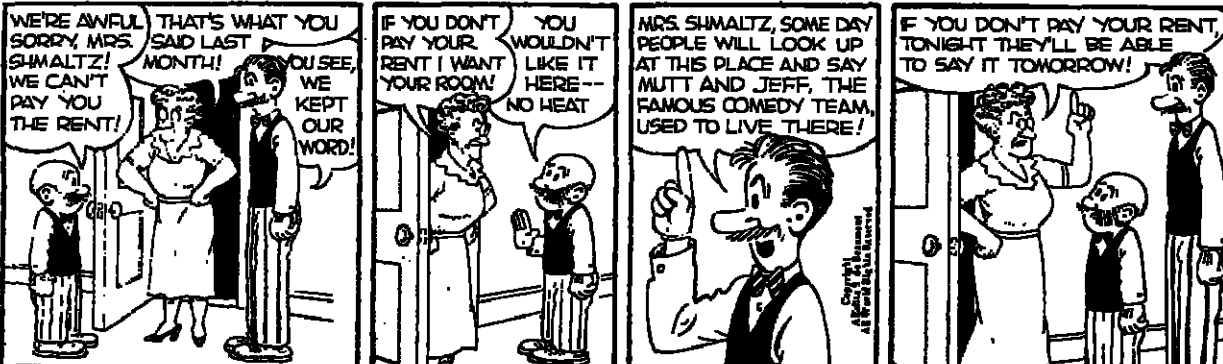
Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

6 Upper crust	31 Certain chicken	43 Kin of ugh	50 Do — (too much)
7 A little	32 Bits of	44 Fitting	51 Miscellaneous
8 Tangle	33 Amelioration	45 Jostled	52 Ring of
9 Cigar type	34 Pitcher's	46 Stone chip	53 Of grand- parents
10 Glacial mass	35 Asses	47 School type	54 Care for
11 Undone	36 Date or alloy	48 Tangle of	
12 Major and	37 Twisted span	49 Tongue	
13 Deceptive	38 Blunder		
14 US playwright			
15 Martin Van —			
16 Chose			
17 More like the sky			
18 Cowpoke's nose			
19 N.Y. city			
20 On fire			
21 (misleading)			

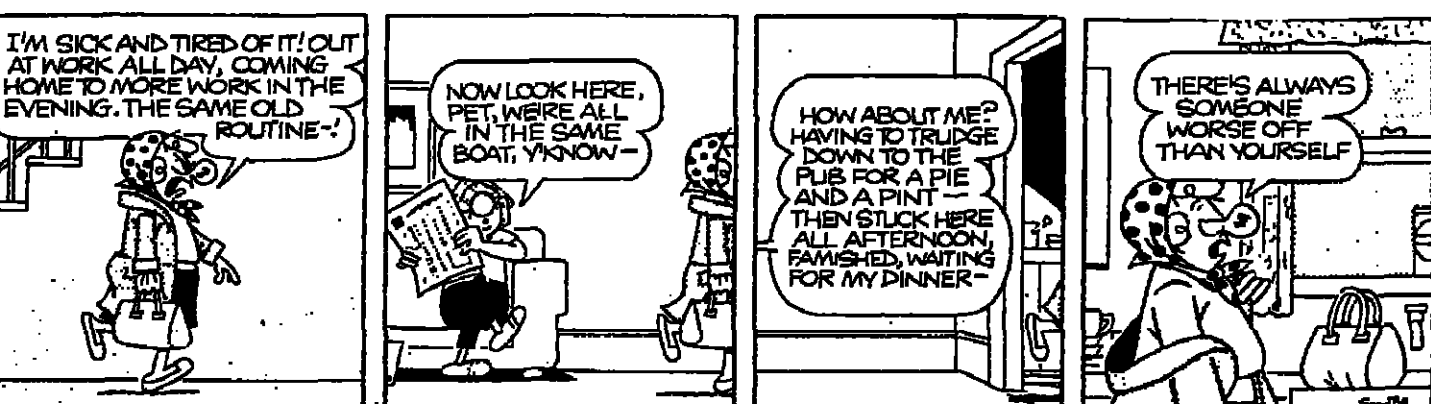
Peanuts



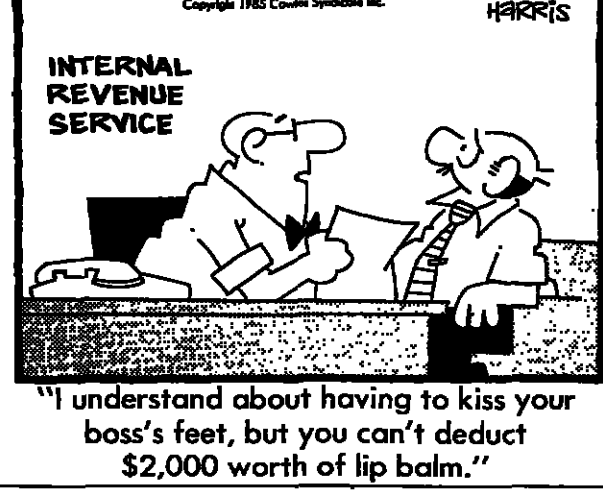
Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

PEBID

BUMIE

EXTUDO

GAMNEA

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU HAVE THE FEELING YOU WANT TO SPEND MORE THAN YOU CAN AFFORD.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: IT IN THE

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: SQUAB TWICE MAINLY FABRIC

Answer: That snobbish skunk was unpopular because he was always putting on this—SUCH AWFUL "AIRS"

Mali, Burkina Faso sign truce ending border war

Both sides drop plan to have observers

ABIDJAN (R) — Mali and Burkina Faso agreed to a ceasefire in their border war Monday but scrapped an earlier plan to have Libyan and Nigerian observers monitor the truce, official Ivory Coast sources said.

The sources said the monitoring plan was dropped at the request of neighbouring states.

Mali announced Monday morning that President Moussa Traore had signed a ceasefire agreement presented by ANAD, a regional defence pact to which both Mali and Burkina Faso belong.

The Malian announcement gave no details of the agreement but sources in Abidjan close to Ivory Coast President Felix Houphouët-Boigny said it differed from and superseded one which had been brokered by the Libyans and Nigerians.

The sources told Reuters the earlier agreement had been accepted by the warring nations but rejected by most member countries of ANAD — the Non-Aggression and Defence Pact of French-speaking West African states.

Mr. Traore signed the truce document at 0300 GMT during a flying visit to Bamako by the Ivorian foreign and defence ministers Simeon Ake and Jean Konan Banyi. It was earlier accepted by Burkina Faso and Bamako Radio said it took effect at 0600 GMT.

An official Ivory Coast source told Reuters: "Only the ANAD accord is valid. Any previous agreement is superseded."

The Malian government announced in Bamako late Sunday night that it had accepted terms for a truce, which it said were proposed by a Libyan-Nigerian mediation commission.

Burkina Faso said early Sunday, that it had agreed to a truce.

The war, between two of the

world's poorest countries, began on Christmas Day over an arid strip of border land which is believed to hold untapped riches of manganese, uranium and natural gas.

The statement issued in Bamako Sunday night said that Mali and Burkina Faso had agreed to end all hostilities immediately and to withdraw their armies to positions occupied before the war.

The two West African former French colonies also agreed to set up a military observers team comprising Libya, Nigeria, Mali, Burkina Faso and a representative of the Organisation of African Unity chairman, Senegalese President Abdou Diouf.

Mali and Burkina Faso would cease any act likely to "further deteriorate the fraternal relations existing between the two countries," the statement added.

In between announcing acceptance of the truce, Bamako Radio said: "The Malian army, the government, our party and people have just won a brilliant victory over the enemy."

News that Mali had accepted a ceasefire followed a day of conflicting reports on whether the war, which broke out on Christmas Day between two of the world's poorest states, had ended.

Burkina Faso announced an end to hostilities early Sunday but on Sunday night Ouagadougou Radio Burkina said it had accepted terms for a truce, which it said were proposed by a Libyan-Nigerian mediation commission.

Burkina Faso said early Sunday, that it had agreed to a truce.

The war, between two of the

Mali's desire to pursue the war while a ceasefire was approaching.

In the Ivory Coast city of Abidjan, Mali's Foreign Minister Alioune Blondin Beye Sunday night denied a ceasefire had been agreed between the two land-locked countries which fought over a disputed border area believed to be rich in minerals.

Mr. Beye, speaking during a break to a meeting of the Abidjan-based regional Non-Aggression and Defence Accord (ANAD), told Reuters that none of three ceasefire agreements announced before the Bamako statement had had Mali's approval.

Mali's state radio said the ceasefire had been agreed following a special meeting in Bamako between the government and the Central Executive Bureau of Mali's sole political party, the Democratic Union of Malian People.

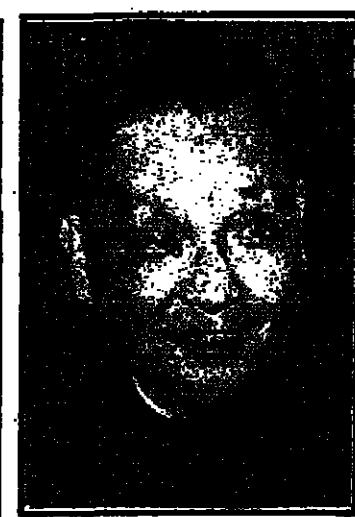
Bamako Radio said the accord followed mediation efforts by Nigerian President Ibrahim Babangida and personal contacts by Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi with the heads of state of Mali and Burkina Faso, respectively Moussa Traore and Thomas Sankara.

It said Capt. Sankara's government had been "oppressing and deceiving the Burkinabe population" by engaging them in "an unjust and fratricidal war."

The conflict was over a long-disputed 160-kilometre border zone known as Agacher which is said to be rich in minerals and natural gas.

Since Christmas Day, fighting spread in air and ground attacks hundreds of kilometres from the disputed area.

Mr. Beye and his Burkinabe counterpart Basile Guissou Sunday joined foreign ministers from Ivory Coast, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Togo in the Abidjan talks on ending the war.



Deng Xiaoping

Deng named Time's Man of the Year

NEW YORK (R) — Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping, cited for installing economic reforms that have "liberated the productive energies of a billion people," was named Monday man of the year for 1985 by Time magazine.

In announcing Mr. Deng as its 59th winner of the award, the magazine said the 81-year-old leader's "continuing reform of China and Marxism holds more promise for changing the course of history than anything else that occurred during 1985."

Mr. Deng, also honoured by Time in 1978, became the ninth man to win the distinction twice since the magazine named Charles Lindbergh its first winner in 1927.

Other contenders for the 1985 award included new Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev; jailed black South African Nelson Mandela, who symbolises the struggle against apartheid and Bob Geldof, who raised funds for African famine relief through music, the magazine said.

But Mr. Deng, it said, most significantly influenced the events of the past 12 months.

According to Time, Mr. Deng already has "changed the daily lives of his nation's citizens to a greater extent than any other world leader."

"Foreigners revisiting China after a lapse of only a few years can scarcely believe that they are in the same country," the magazine said.

"The free and well-stocked food markets, the neat little homes and humming village industries springing up throughout the countryside, the openness to foreign influences... are like nothing they or their hosts have seen before," the magazine said.

Mr. Deng was praised for extending reforms he began in 1978 and attempting "on a monumental scale to blend seemingly irreconcilable elements: State ownership and private property, central planning and competitive markets, political dictatorship and limited economic and cultural freedom."

"Indeed, it is almost, or so it often seems to sceptic in both the Western and Marxist worlds, an attempt to combine Communism and Capitalism."

Mr. Deng, whose early reforms concentrated on farming, is now trying to bring change to China's cities through business and industry, the magazine said.

The magazine said more than 2,000 foreign businesses had put some money into China by the end of 1984 and that a trend toward ventures jointly owned by Chinese state enterprises and foreign companies was evident with 687 joint ventures registered in the first half of 1985 — almost as many as in all of 1984.

Whether Mr. Deng's dream of hauling China out of backwardness into the 20th century by the time the century ends will succeed is anybody's guess, Time said.

Meanwhile, Mr. Deng has been invited to a special New Year's Eve party in the Egyptian desert to usher in the year 2000, organisers said Monday.

A gilt-lettered invitation, went to Mr. Deng after he was voted one of 1985's "most inspiring people" by the Millennium Society, a charitable body which aims to dispel pessimism about the world's future in an age of nuclear peril.

Chairman Edward McNally told reporters the society, founded in 1979 by Yale University students, had chartered the cruise liner Queen Elizabeth 2 to take guests to Egypt for the Dec. 31, 1999 party at the Great Pyramid of Cheops.

Mr. Deng, cited for "his faith in young leadership," was asked to join the party together with Nobel Prize winner Mother Teresa, comedian Bob Hope, Irish singer Bob Geldof and world chess champion Gary Kasparov.

Zia lifts martial law

ISLAMABAD (R) — President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq Monday announced the end of eight and half years of martial law in Pakistan but said no revolutionary changes should be expected.

Gen. Zia's long-awaited statement in parliament lifted the third and longest period of military rule in Pakistan's 38-year history.

He said history would judge his decision to seize power in a coup on July 5, 1977, that toppled Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. Bhutto was later executed on charges of plotting to kill a political opponent.

"But when martial law is being lifted today... I am personally satisfied," Gen. Zia said. "We made correct decisions which left the right impact."

Gen. Zia said that with the end of military rule the constitution had been fully revived, military courts abolished, all martial law offices closed and all martial orders except those protected by the constitution repealed.

Cases pending with military courts will now be decided by civil courts, he added.

Gen. Zia said the civilian administration headed by Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo would continue current internal and external policies.

The policies could be modified but no revolutionary changes should be expected, he said.

He said his presence as president symbolised a continuity of these policies.

Gen. Zia's announcement followed the appointment Sunday night of civilian governors of Pakistan's four provinces.

Gen. Zia said he was confident that Pakistan could now govern itself.

"I have full faith in the abilities of 90 million people. I am proud of their spirit of freedom. I have full confidence in their democratic base. I hand over the reins of the country to them and today, now and immediately... declare the lifting of martial law."

He signed the proclamation

ending martial law at the end of his speech.

Gen. Zia did not say whether he would quit the post of army chief of staff which has served as his power base.

He said he thought parliament should continue on the present non-party basis but it must decide that itself.

Parliament has already passed a law allowing parties to function, subject to limits imposed by Gen. Zia before he banned them altogether in 1979. He barred parties from contesting elections last February, permitting candidates to stand only as individuals. Most banned parties asked their members to boycott the polls.

Gen. Zia said Monday those who had boycotted the polls had missed the bus and must wait until the next elections in 1990.

Gen. Zia said he had always seen martial law as a "life-saving drug" and not a permanent feature.

"It is the first time in Asia that democracy has been born from the belly of martial law," he added.

But he said the emergence of a democratic era with the end of military rule was an extension of an extension of the system preceding it.

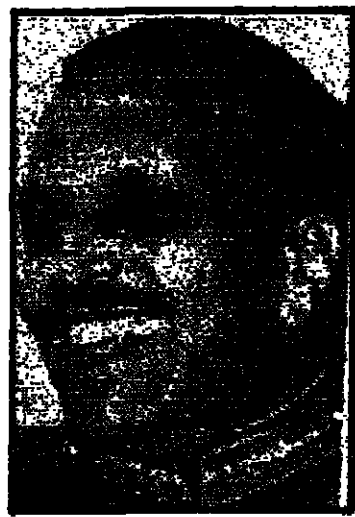
Gen. Zia warned those who boycotted the elections that they "would face exemplary consequences if they tried to put the train of democracy off the rails."

He said the government had taken all precautions to maintain peace.

Reactions to Gen. Zia's announcement, the secretary-general of the opposition Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD) alliance, Khwaja Khairuddin, said in Karachi it was "all a drama and no real restoration of democracy. There is no change in real terms."

"The lifting of martial law is a bundle of lies and frauds," he told Reuters.

Fatehyab Ali Khan, leader of the Mazdoor-Kissan (worker-peasant) Party, one of 11 parties in the MRD, called it a "technical



Gen. Mohammad Zia Ul Haq

lifting of martial law" because parliament had already made most of Gen. Zia's decrees law.

He said the MRD would continue its campaign for fresh elections with all parties contesting under the original constitution.

The opposition has accused Gen. Zia of making the constitution a presidential rather than parliamentary type through his amendments.

Soviets call it 'a farce'

In Moscow the Soviet News Agency TASS described the lifting of martial law in Pakistan as a farce and said it was designed to prop up the rule of President Zia.

TASS said the intentions of Pakistan's ruling party were "to cling to power and to carry on an undemocratic domestic (policy) and a militarist and pro-American foreign policy."

The Kremlin's cool relations with Pakistan have deteriorated since the start of the guerrilla war in neighbouring Afghanistan.

Moscow has accused Islamabad of arming Afghan rebels fighting the Soviet-backed government.

"The aim of this political farce is to try to cover up with a pseudo-democratic screen the crimes committed by the anti-popular military regime against its own country and against peace and security in the region," the agency said.



Princess Anne named 'Woman of the Year'

LONDON (R) — British radio listeners have named Princess Anne "Woman of the Year" for 1985, nudging Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to second place for the first time in three years.

South African black nationalist leader Winnie Mandela came third in the vote, organised by the British Broadcasting Corporation's (BBC) "Today" programme. Princess Anne, once tagged the haughtiest and least popular member of Britain's Royal Family, has earned a reputation as its most dedicated and courageous representative through her work for charity, notably as president of the Save the Children Fund. This year the princess, Queen Elizabeth's only daughter, visited India and Bangladesh on behalf of the fund and toured four African countries, her third trip to the continent in three years.

Gunmen snatch payroll, escape into desert

ABU DHABI (R) — Three masked gunmen chased a cashier, seized a \$200,000 payroll and escaped into the desert in the emirate of Sharjah, newspapers reported Monday. The cashier was heading from a bank to deliver salaries to staff of his construction company when robbed Sunday.

Office romances blooming in Britain

LONDON (R) — Office romances are blooming in Britain, causing heartache for company managers worried about productivity, according to a report published Monday. The straitlaced Business School said love among the filing cabinets was becoming more common as an increasing number of women sought a career. Researchers who questioned 76 senior and middle managers said more than a third confessed to having an office affair and each had been aware of an average of six romances involving colleagues.

Santa Claus pleads not guilty to theft

SYDNEY (R) — Santa Claus turned up in court in a white beard and red suit and pleaded not guilty to a charge of attempting to steal food from a department store. Santa, a 22-year-old writer who was called Lachlan Partridge before he legally changed his name, was arrested by police who said they found him stuffing his sack full of food worth 292 dollars (\$200) a few days before Christmas. Santa was allowed bail and ordered to appear in court again on Feb. 21.

U.S. population grows by \$12.2m

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. population has grown by 12.2 million, or 5.4 per cent over the past five years, with southern and western states gaining more than 90 per cent of the increase, the Census Bureau has reported. The report indicates a continuing migratory trend toward the sun belt states of the south and west, which began shortly after World War II and picked up dramatically during the 1970s.

Snails' eggs are latest addition to French cuisine

RENNES LE CHATEAU, France (R) — Already noted for snails and frogs' legs, a businessman in this tiny village in the Pyrenees has added one more delicacy to French cuisine — snails' eggs. For five years Alain Chailion has been developing what has been dubbed "snail caviar" choosing the right breed of snail and mix of flavourings. Now for the first time during Christmas and New Year festivities, gourmets have had a chance to try the eggs, described by the initiated as having a complex subtle flavour rapidly followed by a bitter aftertaste. Chailion, 45, first tried snails' eggs in 1979 while a tourist in Tibet where they were considered a religious food. "I found them in a sacred offering cup at the foot of a Buddha," he told Reuters. In five years of gastronomic experiments, he selected the so-called "petit gris" (little grey) snail that is already bred in France, and built up a network of centres to supply the eggs.

Sino-U.S. nuclear pact goes into effect

PEKING (R) — A Sino-U.S. agreement on peaceful nuclear cooperation, reached 18 months ago but delayed by congressional fears on possible proliferation of nuclear know-how, came into force Monday.

Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister Zhu Qizhen and U.S. Ambassador Winston Lord exchanged diplomatic notes at a ceremony in Peking, formally putting the pact into effect.

In brief speeches, the two officials pledged their nations would abide strictly by the agreement,

which an American embassy statement called a major and positive development in Sino-U.S. relations.

China plans to build about 10 nuclear power plants, worth \$20 billion, by the end of the century. The accord means U.S. firms can compete in a market until now dominated by Western Europe.

The delay in U.S. ratification, initiated during President Reagan's visit to Peking in April 1984, was the result of intelligence suggesting China was helping Pakistan to develop a nuclear bomb,

according to U.S. officials.

Pakistan denies any such intentions and China has given undertakings to abide by stringent U.S. rules on how American technology can be used.

The accord was finally signed during President Li Xianmin's return visit to Washington in July this year, and ratified by Congress this autumn.

U.S. officials say that, under its terms, the United States can monitor the use of any American-supplied equipment.

Soviets stress condition for withdrawal from Afghanistan

KUWAIT (Agencies) — An official of the Soviet Communist Party was quoted Monday as saying here that the Kremlin would terminate the Soviet military occupation of Afghanistan if the United States and Pakistan pledged never to intervene in Kabul's domestic affairs.

Karim Brutins, deputy director of the Communist Party Central Committee's Middle East Affairs Department, told Kuwaiti newspaper Al Watan that Arab powers should exert themselves to obtain a non-intervention pledge from the U.S. and Pakistani governments regarding Afghanistan.

"I demand of the Arab countries that are keen on solving the problem of Afghanistan to take the initiative and ask the United States and Pakistan never to interfere in the internal affairs of that country," Mr. Brutins told Al Watan in an interview. "This would help solve the Afghan problem peacefully."

Arab diplomatic sources here said that Mr. Brutins was possibly

addressing his demand mainly to Saudi Arabia, the leading Islamic power that has insisted on an immediate termination of the Soviet military occupation of Afghanistan.

They noted that Saudi Defence Minister, Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz, recently insisted in a statement that the kingdom would not exchange diplomatic relations with Moscow before the Soviet occupation forces were out of Afghanistan.

The Kuwaiti parliament on Saturday issued an appeal to the "world conscience to intercede and end the six-year-old Afghan tragedy."

"We demand that efforts be exerted to enable the Muslim people of Afghanistan to determine their own destiny without any foreign intervention," parliament added in its appeal, which was broadcast by the state-run Kuwait Radio.

Mr. Brutins was in Kuwait at the invitation of Al Watan.

Police clash with students at Dhaka University

DHAKA, Bangladesh (Agencies) — Students throwing stones to protest the arrest of opposition student activists damaged several vehicles and set government property on fire, according to witnesses.

Witnesses said nearly 200 protesters belonging to the student wing of the opposition Nationalist Party battled police in the vicinity of Dhaka University for about an hour after police arrested 13 of its members in a pre-dawn raid on Mohsin Hall, a residence at the university.

Police said the 13, who included two top leaders of the Bangladesh Nationalist Student Party, Sanaul Haq Niro and Mahbubul Haq Bablu, were taken in for questioning. They gave no reason for the arrests but said the students had not been charged.

Witnesses said at least a dozen people were injured in the clash. Police said two policemen were injured.

Police guarding the campus said the students stormed university buildings, where they damaged furniture, then hurled stones at passing vehicles and set fire to a pile of telephone cables on the street near a police control room.

Police said the students tried to snatch a rifle from a policeman, who was injured in the scuffle.

Armed police remained on guard in the area.

The militant students support the country's 23 opposition parties, which want to end Bangladesh's 45-month-old military rule and favour "a democratic government."

The students set ablaze the home of Dhaka University's vice-chancellor and ransacked his office Sunday in retaliation for a police raid, a police spokesman said.

Police took four revolvers and a submachine-gun from Mohsin Hall, which houses more than 1,000 students, he said.

Mugabe reports progress in unity talks

HARARE (R) — Zimbabwean Prime Minister Robert Mugabe has said ruling ZANU-PF Party and the main opposition PF-ZAPU have agreed to establish a Socialist, one-party state.

He told state-run Zimbabwe television Sunday night the agreement came during inter-party discussions which started last August.

There was hope the two parties would merge but the question of the leadership of a united party was still outstanding, Mr. Mugabe said.

Mr. Mugabe is committed to setting up a one-party state based on Marxist-Leninist principles, most likely after the expiry in 1990 of Zimbabwe's British-drafted constitution which bars one-party rule.

The government accuses followers of PF-ZAPU, led by veteran nationalist Joshua Nkomo, of fomenting a three-year rebellion in southern and western province of the country, a charge Mr. Nkomo denies.

The rebels, who launched their offensive in 1982 following Mr. Nkomo's sacking from the cabinet on allegations of plotting a coup, have killed at least 300 people and destroyed property worth several million dollars.

Meanwhile, police said rebels shot dead a white Zimbabwean

farmer in southern Matabeleland province Sunday.

Investigations showed that Mark James Sommer was killed by seven rebels near his farm at Lynathi, 60 kilometres north of Bulawayo, a police spokesman said Sunday night.

Several farmers have been murdered by rebels in Matabeleland in the past three years, forcing many others to flee their lucrative cattle ranches.

Indian tanks shell oilwell to avoid new outbreak of fire

NEW DELHI (R) — An oil well fire which blazed for 15 days, forcing the evacuation of thousands of people in west India, was extinguished Monday and army tanks shelled the site to stop any fresh outbreak.

After a lengthy battle by Soviet and Indian experts, the fire died out suddenly when the well mouth collapsed under the impact of thousands of gallons of water and chemicals, choking the flames which had shot 300 metres into the air.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency said the fire ended at about 3 a.m. several hours before the army planned to shell the well in a desperate bid to stop the blaze which had defied earlier attempts to put it out with water and chemicals.

About 5,000 residents were evacuated from seven villages near the exploratory well at Kadi, close to Ahmedabad in Gujarat state.

After declaring an indefinite curfew in Kadi, the army went ahead with the shelling to clear debris from the well site, including the wreckage of a \$7 million drilling rig destroyed when the fire broke out on Dec. 15.

An army spokesman said three tanks fired 64 shells at the site, sending debris flying up to 300 metres away.

With the wreckage cleared from the well mouth, oil experts planned to pump mud and cement into the drill hole to plug it completely.

Gujarat is India's second largest on-shore oil producing region, contributing four million tonnes to the country's annual output of 30 million tonnes of crude.

Peace marchers rebuffed again at Honduran border

LA PLAYA, Nicaragua (AP) — After being barred from Honduras for the second day in a row, about 200 peace marchers said Sunday they would try instead to sail to El Salvador to continue their march through Central America.

About 100 Honduran soldiers, armed with automatic rifles and tear gas canisters, blocked the border crossing at La Fraternidad when the demonstrators in the march for peace in Central America first tried to cross.

The border post is about 272 kilometres north of the Nicaraguan capital of Managua.

Blase Bonpane, an organiser of the march, said the participants gave up trying to enter Honduras on Sunday afternoon and planned to return Monday to Managua.

He said they would try to get permission to enter El Salvador by sailing across the Gulf of Fonseca, which is shared by El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua.

The Honduran government announced on Dec. 20 that it would not let the marchers into Honduras. The government of neighbouring El Salvador also has said the demonstrators would not be welcome on its soil.

If the Salvadoran government still refuses entry to the group, Bonpane said the demonstrators

intended to fly to Guatemala, where the government has said they were welcome. The Mexican government also has said it would admit the marchers, he said.

Bonpane said some of the marchers wanted to stay at the Honduran border until they were allowed into the country.

"We have said to those few people that if they don't accept decisions of the organisers, it is better that they leave the march," he said.

Other members of the march have expressed unhappiness that prominent public figures, such as the Rev. Jesse Jackson, a 1984 Democratic U.S. presidential candidate, and actors Julie Christie and Martin Sheen, did not take part in the demonstration as promised by the organisers.

The marchers, who are from the United States, Canada, Europe, Asia and Latin America, left Panama on Dec. 10 and are scheduled to arrive in Mexico on Jan. 22.

The march was organised by the March for Peace in Central America, a group based in Oslo, Norway.

The marchers, travelling by bus and on foot, entered Nicaragua on Dec. 16. In Costa Rica, they were stoned by members of a right-wing group.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SEARBY
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q1.—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AK6 ♠AK8765 ♠A95 ♠6
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 3 NT Pass
What action do you take?
- Q2.—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K1076 ♠A92 ♠J75 ♠J52
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 3 NT Pass
What do you bid now?
- Q3.—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K87 ♠KQJ7 ♠62 ♠KQ75
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
3 ♠ Double Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q4.—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q98 ♠KQ73 ♠K92 ♠K76
The bidding has proceeded:
North West South
1 ♠ 2 ♠ ?
What do you bid now?
- Q5.—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AKQJ ♠762 ♠8543 ♠94
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
Pass Pass 1 ♠ Pass
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
What action do you take?
- Q6.—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A5 ♠A109542 ♠K35